

Forrest dream list

Overview

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1. Introduction

This is the initial attempt to give focus to the Forrest project. This summary is a loose collection of items from the forrest-dev mailing list. Please add and re-arrange so that it can evolve into a focus document. The [Forrest Primer](http://../docs/primer.html) (../docs/primer.html) provides an overview.

These are the email threads and documents that are currently being summarised. Please see those documents for further detail.

- [RT] my Forrest dream-list Date: Wed, 20 Feb 2002
<http://marc.theaimsgroup.com/?l=forrest-dev&m=101431895118349> [done]
- README [FIXME: not yet started summarising]
- [phases] Forrest Date: Fri, 22 Feb 2002
<http://marc.theaimsgroup.com/?l=forrest-dev&m=101445744931104> [FIXME: not yet started summarising]
- adding to the dream list Date: Fri, 15 Mar 2002
<http://marc.theaimsgroup.com/?l=forrest-dev&m=101620970016263> [FIXME: not yet started summarising]
- analysis paralysis :-) Date: Mon, 25 Feb 2002
<http://marc.theaimsgroup.com/?l=forrest-dev&m=101465344708301> [FIXME: not yet started summarising]
- documentation architecture? Date: Thu, 25 Apr 2002
<http://marc.theaimsgroup.com/?l=forrest-dev&m=101973705501466> [FIXME: not yet started summarising]
- Topic Maps for Forrest ? Date: Mon, 18 Mar 2002
<http://marc.theaimsgroup.com/?l=forrest-dev&m=101647290524645> [FIXME: not yet started summarising]

2. Draft dream list

- Forrest provides a robust technological infrastructure for open software development for the Apache Software Foundation based on ASF software, ASF practices and experience, and modern software design principles.
- a publishing system for documentation
- analysis of logs and publishing of results
- Ok, first of all: "it hurts my spirit" (I should TM this) to see the apache web sites with such a *poor* information infrastructure. Just look at sourceforge: it's not the best site of the world, but gives you lots of tools and information that we currently don't have (or have hidden someplace).
- I want Forrest to be the development infrastructure of your dreams, something that you'll

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be proud of showing your boss and say "if only we had this in place, we would save big bucks" so...

- Dream #1: Forrest should make Sourceforge look obsolete.
- So, in order for this to happen, it must be dynamic. Assumption #1: Forrest is a dynamic site. The staticity of apache web sites was mostly due to the quest for heavy mirroring, Forrest should allow mirroring, so
- Dream #2: Forrest should reduce xml.apache.org bandwidth use dramatically
- Dream #3: Forrest should automate mirroring in a simple and easy way. My idea is to use the 'command line' features of Cocoon to generate static snapshots of sites and produce mirrors directly using a sort of rsync or other mean. Anyway, the goal is to make sure mirroring is as easy as possible. No, easier than that.
- coherence: all the site should look coherent, same graphics, same look-and-feel, same information in the same locations, coherent and nice URI space (build to last! so that broken links are reduced!)
- structure: the site should look professional, the structure should be flexible enough to fit every need but solid enough to guide users browsing and developers adding resources
- scalability
- functionality: everything you ever wanted to have in your project web site
- logs and community rating: I want to have numbers to judge the value of a community/effort
- Downloads, number of committers, numbers of people subscribed on the users/dev list, numbers of mail messages / week on these lists, CVS activity... These are the kind of parameters I use to "judge" an Apache project that I have not been looking into before.
- Graphs of various statistics.
- Having good site metrics will be a valuable aid to those involved in maintenance and future re-design phases. See some discussion in <http://marc.theaimsgroup.com/?l=forrest-dev&m=102238816218885>
- Built-in search engine: users much have a simple way to find things. Lucene.
- User-writable pages: people should have a way to add things to the pages. See the thread for more detail on this. FIXME: get MARC ref
- short bios for the project committers, with pictures: gives a better sense of community. Having a weblog there would be great.
- news, announcements, events and project calendaring: the news and the announcements will generate a RSS feed, events will be aggregated into a project-wide calendar, or an effort-specific calendar, the events will also be overwritten on the logs, to indicate how logs were influenced by the events (say, a release or a new committer added)
- book-like PDF versions of documentation: easy to print out docs.
- integration with GUMP: dependencies, runs, committer that broke the run
- javadocs seamlessly integrated with the documentation and with the search engine. <http://marc.theaimsgroup.com/?l=forrest-dev&m=101620970016263>

- mail archive seamlessly integrated with the search engine (one should look for something and get results from either docs, javadocs or emails messages)
- coherent-looking CVS view
- document translation using Google translation services
- Integrated project management, task management, bug tracking, feature requests, process management. The idea is to integrate Scarab for bug tracking/patches and managing/feature requests. (As far as team management, this is a serious political issue and I do not want to tackle that one yet, not even on the dreamlist.)
- overview doco for all projects ... CVS Usage precis, overview of opensource and links to relevant doco