INTRODUCTION TO THE ORGANIZED INFORMATION KONSOLE

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Historical Note

Prior to 2014, the Content Team at Flipkart Internet Pvt. Ltd. used a series of Google Spreadsheets and MS Excel spreadsheets to manage their information internally. Writers used a single spreadsheet which had a tab for each of them. Writers were expected to fill in details related to their daily work output in the sheet in an organized manner. At the end of each day, writers took turns on a weekly basis to collate their colleagues’ data into a single spreadsheet which was called the EOD report. Team Leads would later copy this information into their MS Excel spreadsheet which was formulated to calculate the efficiency. Editors, however, copied the information from the individual writers’ sheets the next day as writers were prone to making changes without intimation. Team Leads had to go back and check with writers about changes, and they’d have to make the changes themselves.

As is apparent by even a layman’s eye, there were several issues in this process. They are listed below:

1. Google Spreadsheets is very dependent on the internet connection. It lags when too many people are using it simultaneously.
2. Writers had to delete their old data on a weekly basis so as to keep the sheet clear.
3. Manual copying of information is a waste of time and effort. Writers constantly missed entries or they would make errors with the column alignment.
4. In the absence of any sort of data validation, the writers were left to fill their own sheets in a very unreliable and misguided manner.
5. As a result, the information would usually have to be cleaned on a daily basis prior to publishing.
6. The process utilized several hours of work time, and it was a repetitive task that could benefit from automation.

In order to counteract this problem, it was proposed that the team use a combination of MS Excel spreadsheets and Google Drive’s file synchronization application in order to allow TLs and Editors to extract data using macros.

However, the files grew to sizes of 15 MB, leading to huge bandwidth related issues. As a result of pain stricken workflow breakdowns, it was decided to pursue a holistic approach to the problem at hand.

A true solution to the problems would be a customized application that would do the following:

1. Allow writers to post their work related information on a real-time basis.
2. Allow TLs and editors to extract this information effortlessly at any point of time, for any amount of data.
3. Eliminate any chance of error in data entry at the source, informing writers about their work and teaching them about the importance of data consistency.
4. Provide writers a way to keep a record of their work.
5. Allow editors to perform their audits and publish them directly.
6. Allow data extraction at large frequencies, uninhibited by bandwidth or network issues.
7. Save money by eliminating the necessity of providing writers with the MS Office Software Package.
8. Analyse the team’s performance by gathering work time data and use this information to create a feasibility study and scale-up methodology.
9. Identify the outliers in the writing process, bringing up their areas of improvement and possible decision points that managers could take to improve the process.
10. Analyse the quality and pick up patterns for use in recording a skill matrix, automating assignment and improving productivity.

As a result of these critical pointers, it was decided that there was a need for a dedicated application built to specification. It was decided that the application would be coded entirely in the Python programming language due to its rapid programming timeline and its wide range of modules for GUI and data analysis.

The application’s database back end was framed in MySQL, on a dedicated server on the local network. The database was interfaced with the application via Python’s MySQLdb module, and the GUI was built using PyQt4.11. The numerical analysis was coded using the pandas, numpy and scipy toolkits.

The first betas of the application went live in November, and it was slowly developed until February, when rapid development was initiated for phase 2. Phase 2 went live in the last week of March.

The application and its related framework were coded by Vinay Keerthi, a writer working in the Content Team since February 2014. This documentation serves to help users and future developers in using and further improving the system.

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Setting Up OINK For First Time Use

For Writers

If you’ve just joined the team, wait for your login credentials from your TL or reporting manager. Once you’ve received your login id, which is the same as your employee ID, proceed to the following steps.

1. Get a copy of the latest OINK folder from your TL or Reporting Manager.
2. Copy the folder into your local drive and launch the OINK.exe file in the folder.
3. It will ask you if you would like to create a desktop shortcut. Click yes.
4. Enter your employee ID into the user ID box.
5. By default, your password is set to “password”. Enter that in the password box.
6. The application will attempt to connect to the server. If there are any problems at this stage, contact your TL or Reporting Manager.
7. Once you successfully login, the application will ask you to reset your password. Please set an easy-to-remember password.
8. The dialog will pass your connection to PORK.

For Editors

For TLs

For Assistant Managers

For Managers

For Administrators

PORK

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Version 3, 29 June 2007

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in one of these ways:

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customarily used for software interchange.

b) Convey the object code in, or embodied in, a physical product

(including a physical distribution medium), accompanied by a

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medium customarily used for software interchange, for a price no

more than your reasonable cost of physically performing this

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with subsection 6b.

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Corresponding Source along with the object code. If the place to

copy the object code is a network server, the Corresponding Source

may be on a different server (operated by you or a third party)

that supports equivalent copying facilities, provided you maintain

clear directions next to the object code saying where to find the

Corresponding Source. Regardless of what server hosts the

Corresponding Source, you remain obligated to ensure that it is

available for as long as needed to satisfy these requirements.

e) Convey the object code using peer-to-peer transmission, provided

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A separable portion of the object code, whose source code is excluded

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if neither you nor any third party retains the ability to install

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