.: an overview of the past year
[2002 – 2003]
[or, more importantly, v0.0.0 - v0.1.3b]

This site was born, in its crudest form [v0.0.0], last August. It started out as nothing more than a couple of pages and lots of ideas. A few major modifications and design choices later, a template and feel were chosen from the many potentials on OSWD. The one I use, Whompy, is horribly complex, but perfect for the look and feel I was going for - cold, dark, impersonal, and all that sort of thing. Very me. With that done, the basic structure was laid out and a lot of hacking then went into simplifying things (for frequent updates) and making sure it passes validation parsers. Many changes to the back end template were introduced at this time, and by the fifth iteration, template v5, changes included separation of the header, footer, news and so on into separate files which are server side included into each file on the site. This enabled changes to a single place reflect all over the site.

Consistency, consistency, consistency. It's all about consistency.

With the back end and ground work all stabilizing, then came the all important issue of content. Most pages started small and have matured with time, the first really complete one being the pseudo "about me" page. The two pages that have been hardest to compose (and hence are still incomplete) are the work and play pages, which in their current avatars are called "resume" and "interests" respectively. Time and some amount of thought will tell how much they grow, or whether one or both will have to be, sadly, removed. The new work page is shaping up quite well, the play, not so. I mean it's in my head, but I am just not able to put up something I like. It has undergone at least 7 or 8 major iterations, and it still sucks. Not to mention it's still broken and incomplete.

Somewhere along the way, I had moved the credits page from the top nav menu and replaced it with a "picture page", due to a lot of demand from everybody who cared to feedback. So, I did. I then bought a camera, and it's been slowly getting more populated with pictures, and is the fastest growing portion of the site, in terms of hit gathering. Evidently, illiterates outnumber the literates. Also around this time, I had hacked a blog code, b2, to match the site (almost) and linked off to a blog that I've been actually maintaining quite regularly since the beginning of the year. I've always had a blog, but never updated so often, or lived so long.

I would have liked it if the year didn't end with a beta release [v0.1.3b], but ah well, basically, the going's been good. There is a LOT more to do of course, but things are falling into place quite well given the time I have to work on this. Now that it is out of its teething phase, things should go on pretty smoothly. I hope. The TO DO list pretty much sums up a good chunk of what's not done, yet.

Thank you for your constructive criticism, if you did constructively criticize, of course. Some hit statistics follow for those number junkies who are interested in that sort of thing. Yes, it's grown from a measly 40 to over 26000 requests per month in a year. A large chunk of it is me, but still...

- Harish Narayanan

:. Successful Requests Served Per Month