The Scout Portal Toolkit: An Overview
Edward Almasy <ealmasy@cs.wisc.edu>

Computer Sciences & Statistics – University of Wisconsin – Madison
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Publisher’s Note

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The Internet Scout Project

- **Primary mission:** Internet resource discovery and applied resource discovery technology

- Started in 1994 (spun off from the InterNIC)

- Flagship publication: *The Scout Report* (published weekly)

- The Internet Scout Project team:
  - Rachael Bower, Director
  - Edward Almasy, Technical Director
  - David Sleasman, Coordinator of Metadata & Cataloging Services
  - Barry Wiegan, Senior Software Engineer
  - ...and an array of graduate and undergraduate students from more than a dozen different fields
The Scout Portal Toolkit (SPT)

- Designed to enable collection developers to share their collections of resource metadata via the web
- Minimal technical investment required
- Freely-available open source software package
- Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
SPT: Features (Interface)

- HTML (look & feel) and PHP (functionality) split
- Customized HTML preserved during upgrades
- Some customization available without editing HTML (color scheme, logo graphics)
- Multiple interfaces supported in a single installation, selectable on a per-user basis
- PHP customization hooks (e.g. search result filtering) included
SPT: Default Interface

News & Announcements
No new announcements.

New Resources

British Invasion
http://www.britannica.com/article?eu=075938&link=0
The 45th anniversary of the Beatles’ arrival in America, an event that sparked the “second British Invasion” of 1964–67. Soon after their historic appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show, a string of British bands seized their fortune on...

http://www.pro.gov.uk/research/h551002/latex.htm
The UK Public Record Office (first described in the January 5, 1992 Scout Report) has recently made a second release of Security Service Records (M55), consisting primarily of...

An Abridgment History of the United States
http://www.us-history.com/the-fram.html
Perhaps better called a “selective” rather than “abridged” history of the United States, this informative online textbook offers the story of the US through the perspective of a retired attorney and publisher who wanted to make a difference on the web...

1997 State of the Union Addresses: William J. Clinton
http://www.presidency.ucsa.edu/ws/index.php?
President Clinton’s State of the Union message, delivered February 4, 1997, is available in both text and RealAudio formats at the White House web site. For Internudial, interested in a more historical perspective, a selected archive of State of the Union messages...

The President’s 1996 State of the Union Address
http://www2.whitehouse.gov/1996president/Stateofthe-Top.html
President Clinton’s State of the Union Address can be read and heard (via RealAudio) at the new White House web site. On the page you will find the speech, as well as a “statistical snapshot” of where America is today, background to the address, and...
SPT: “Clean Orange” Interface
SPT: Features (Browsing & Searching)

- Adaptive browsing interface (matches hierarchy)
- Quick Search (keyword searching)
- Advanced Search (full field specification and limiter options)
- Search engine supports exclusion and phrases
- RSS access supported
SPT: Features (User Interaction)

- User search agents (push technology)
- Resource rating and commenting by users
- Recommender system
- Forums (bulletin boards)
SPT: Features (Metadata)

- Distributed with metadata schema based on Dublin Core with DC-Ed extensions

- Metadata set extendable and customizable

- Four types of metadata fields:
  o Free-form text (e.g. Title, Description)
  o Controlled list – limited (e.g. Audience, Resource Type)
  o Controlled list – unlimited (e.g. Author, Publisher)
  o Hierarchical (e.g. Subject Area, Classification)

- Workflow management options
SPT: Metadata Tool
SPT: Requirements

- **Software / environment:**
  - Linux (Red Hat 7.3 recommended)
  - Apache
  - PHP 4.0.6 (or newer)
  - MySQL 3.23.5 (or newer)

- **Hardware:** almost any computer capable of running the above

- **Available at almost all universities and ISPs**
SPT: Current Status

- Beta testing started Fall 2001
- Feedback from beta testers incorporated
- Version 0.9.5 due out June 26th
Contact and Further Information

Edward Almasy  ealmasy@cs.wisc.edu
Rachael Bower  bower@cs.wisc.edu
David Sleasman  sleasman@cs.wisc.edu

The Scout Portal Toolkit
http://scout.cs.wisc.edu/research/SPT

SPT Mailing List
SPTAnnounce@scout.cs.wisc.edu