FeedFeed

A Web Service for Feed Metadata

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Outline of presentation

- Background
  - What are feeds

- Problem Statement
  - Why feeds

- FeedFeed Web Service
  - What it is
Bookmarks as inspiration

Disabled advocates wary of march toward open source
BOSTON – Beleaguered Massachusetts CIO Peter Quinn has resigned, but the controversy surrounding his decision to adopt OpenDocument formats won't end with his departure. State officials haven't indicated they plan to amend Quinn's plan to adopt OpenForma
to oss opensource massachusetts ... on nov 23, 2006

Massachusetts open source fight becomes partisan | Open Source | ZDNet.com
Is the battle over the OpenDocument format in Massachusetts becoming a partisan battle? If it is, Microsoft is allied to the Democrats.
to oss opensource massachusetts ... saved by 3 other people ... on nov 23, 2006

Mass. to use Microsoft Office in ODF plan | Tech News on ZDNet
Massachusetts will begin using OpenDocument as the default document format later this year as planned, but it will be sticking with Microsoft Office in the near term, the state's top
technology executive said.
to oss opensource massachusetts ... on nov 23, 2006

Done
Web feeds are...

- A way for websites to provide frequently updated content
  - BBC hourly news to your cell phone
- A way for users to pull many different information sources into one place
  - Favorite 15 news sources on your cell phone
Some feed vocabulary

- Content providers *syndicate* a feed
- Users *subscribe* to a feed
- Feeds can be *aggregated*
- Feed aggregators are called *feed readers*
- Feed *technical standards* are RSS 1.0, RSS 2.0, Atom, AtomPub, many others
- Feed *metadata* is data about the feed
Have you used iGoogle?
Have you used MyYahoo?
Have you used iTunes?
Where do you find feeds?
How do you know there is a feed?
Enough symbols to confuse everyone...
Publishers syndicate you aggregate...anywhere
Example Feed Reader
How to get a feed
State of Technology

- Feeds are becoming widely used
  - News sites, blogs, podcasts
- Originally ambiguity with technology standards but now more stable
  - RSS, Atom, AtomPub
Jane the Feed User

- Where
  - work, home, mobile
- What
  - news, blogs, audio
- Why
  - fun, work, contacts
- How much
  - 100s of feeds
Jane has problems

- Difficult to share feeds with people
- A pain to subscribe to feeds from three different places - home, work, mobile
What does Jane need?

- A way to organize the many feeds
- A way to share feeds with friends
- A way to manage multiple subscriptions
How do we help Jane?

www.jafs.com

FeedFeed Service
Did we help Jane?
Jane is happy...
What about her company?

- MegaHealth Inc.
  - Who
    - 5000 doctors, 400,000 patients
  - What
    - benefits, procedural, studies results
  - How
    - flyers, email... wants to use feeds
- Classic problem
  - Vast amount of info centrally produced
  - Highly segmented audiences
What does MegaHealth need?

- A way to organize the information
- ...a way to create, organize and share feed metadata
- A way to publish the information
- A way to manage multiple subscriptions
How do we help MegaHealth?

www.hafs.com

FeedFeed Service
Architecture of FeedFeed
Requirements

- Abstracted
  - One approach for different problems
- Broad access to data
  - People adding and modify different data
- Easy development platform
  - Accepted technical standards
  - Simple model
Standards and Tools

- Data format
  - Accept all feed formats, serve Atom
- Application Programming Interface
  - Atom Publishing Protocol
- Query Support
  - Feed Item Query Language
- Tools
  - Python, CherryPy, MySQL, Dejavu
Progress Made

Diagram showing the flow of services involving a publisher, feed publishing service, feed service, feed bookmarking service, and a consumer.
Some Lessons Learned

- Many opportunities
  - Even advanced users not happy with existing support in the domain
- There are few generic AtomPub standard implementations
  - Amplee framework does not abstract out the data model
- AtomPub standard rules!
Future work

- Implement the full AtomPub API
- Build out the consumer interface
- Create the publisher interface
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Questions?