

Process documentation

Use of the i-scream web site

This document covers the important issues regarding the i-scream web site, which has rapidly become an important starting point for many aspects of the i-scream project.

Revision History

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Introduction

This document covers the important issues regarding the i-scream web site, which has rapidly become an important starting point for many aspects of the i-scream project. It was deemed necessary to document the use of the web site as it has become very closely tied to the way in which we work.

Meeting minutes

As soon as the web site was active early in the first term, we started to publish our meeting minutes on it using our CGI document viewer. All documents on the site were simple text files, for ease of production, but when displayed via our document viewer, they were able to highlight URLs and suchlike. Visits to the web site became a very regular occurrence as it provided an easy way of monitoring our past progress. Also, we found it pleasing to be able to notify others of our progress. Indeed, a few other groups did express an amount of amazement at how organised we were. Such feedback helped to improve our interests in the project.

Specification documentation

Our earlier specification documents originally appeared on the web site via the document viewer. Having to refer to these documents many times, we found it very useful to have them in an online format that was easily accessible from anywhere. Such documents are now also available from our web site in Word format (97/2000 compatible).

CVS

People may still browse our entire CVS tree from our web site. We like people to be interested in our project and we are open to suggestions for ideas from other people. Allowing others to view our code and documentation was an idea that we thought we could potentially benefit from. No other projects were similar in nature to ours, so we saw no serious harm in doing this.

Most use of the CVS tree was made by ourselves, as the cvsweb interface provided a visual method of highlighting differences between versions of files, which we found useful.

A page was also made available to show all commits made for the day. This was useful in seeing what changes had been made by all group members.

Software builds

Our web site now offers users the opportunity to download the latest builds from the i-scream project. This includes the host software, which was used by a number of people to assist us in collecting data for populating the historical reports.

“TODO” list

For our own use, and for the interest of others, the TODO document in our CVS repository is displayed on the web site. This is a simple document listing the items that are yet to

complete. In particular, we have found it quite satisfying to see that other project groups sometime look at our web site to see what work they ought to be doing.

Server logs

A link to the server logs page exists on the menu of each page. These allow the full log to be viewed via a web page. As the logs are now very large, we have added another page to list the last n lines of the log, where $1 \leq n \leq 99999$. Both of these pages allow 'grepping' of the output, so as you would expect, we found these pages very useful for debugging the server, hosts, and generally viewing the health of the server.

i-scream reports

The main web site provides a link to the web reports generated for the i-scream monitoring system. These allow real-time data and alerts to be viewed, as well as historical data for hosts.

External links

The web site has always contained links to web sites that we have used during the development of the project. We thus ended up using our project web site as a central resource for reaching such information.

Mailing list

The entire group keeps in very frequent contact via the mailing list. This enables us to discuss many issues as and when they arise. We also publish our contact details on the i-scream web site so that interested parties may express their opinions on our progress.