Web Development: It’s Not a Bug, It’s a Feature

John McCardle

IT-C2 - Application Engineering and Operations Branch

**Website Migration To Sitecore**

Nothing is permanent. Though digital products may have an immaterial quality to them, software and websites have a shelf life. Websites only exist to support missions, and when a mission outlasts its web technologies, a migration is necessary. During a migration, we assess the website and move it to a new platform. I have been assessing a website for migration to Sitecore, KSC’s content management system.

**Website Directory Tree (Left)**

The Sprint Evaluation Surveillance System (SESS) is a web application to track all software development sprints currently in progress. During and after each sprint, development goals can be tracked, changed, and reviewed. This was an excellent choice of software assignment for a new member, because not only am I developing a piece of software, but also learning the processes our branch is responsible for.

**Reports Detected by Web Scraper (Above)**

My web scraper program detected over 1,500 files that went undetected by earlier site analysis.

**Excerpt of Python Code (Above)**

This web scraper, written in Python, does not take much code. The secret to its effectiveness is running the code recursively over the target website’s 1,800+ subdirectories.

**Sprint Evaluation Surveillance System**

The KIAC contract is responsible for much of the software processes our branch is responsible for.

**CFC Administration Application**

The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) runs every year to collect charitable donations from civil servants. The CFC application tracks “Quality Contacts” to help Key Workers locate uncontacted employees. The application also presents tables of data and an appealing thermometer graph to keep users informed.

**CFC Administration Application**

Web Scraping is the technique of using a computer program other than a web browser to access websites, in order to collect all or some of the data. In this case, I used a program called a web scraper or spider to collect a complete listing of the files and directories of one KSC website. This information helps our customer to make determinations about what files are still in use, which files need to be archived, and which can be safely discarded.

**Sitecore Training**

Teaching others to use our systems is a crucial element of web development. I’ve already begun sharing my new expertise with Sitecore.

I wrote a Sitecore training slideshow and user guide. After heavy editing on the part of my mentor, our new documents were approved and I led the first Sitecore training on center in several months.

**Sitecore Training Slide (Left)**

Every step a new Sitecore editor needs to follow to change their organization’s website is shown in the course.

**Sitecore Quick Help Guide (Right)**

The Quick Help Guide explains every element of the training in prose form, which should help new Sitecore editors remember their training or brush up between infrequent editing.

**Fun**

The office can be a quiet environment: so quiet that any minor disturbance becomes an alarming experience. To prevent my co-workers from startling me when entering my cubicle, I built this entry detector. Different sound effects are played for entry and exit.

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