

Newsletter
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news

FLAX

flax monitoring component for Dods Parliamentary

Dods Parliamentary has been providing comprehensive and trusted political reference data since 1832 and recently embarked upon a major project to launch a new political intelligence and monitoring platform.

Flax was engaged in 2013 to develop a search component to map automatically political information from a large variety of sources to user interest profiles. The data is supplied to the Flax component as XML, as are a set of 'rules' defining the areas of interest of each customer.

The Flax monitoring component, based on the open source Apache Lucene/Solr search engine, uses high-performance monitoring algorithms to match rules

against relevant information items, taking account of the source of the item, ACLs, taxonomy tags and any other metadata. Rules can be written using Boolean expressions such as AND and OR. The system is accessed and controlled via a RESTful Web Service API.

Flax also assisted Dods with performance tuning of an existing archive search engine based on Apache Lucene/Solr and helped train Dods staff on this and associated technologies.

"Flax's expertise in implementing high-performance search and monitoring systems was invaluable," said Andy Heather, CTO of Dods. "They delivered a component that works

seamlessly with the other parts of our system and allows us to process thousands of items every day."



Flax continues to develop its expertise in news monitoring with a list of clients that includes Dods, Gorkana and Australian Associated Press and has recently released an open source software library for high performance monitoring queries, Luwak.

<https://github.com/flaxsearch/luwak>

Tuning performance for Solr & Elasticsearch

In addition to our various development projects Flax is now regularly carrying out short engagements for clients with existing search applications built on Apache Lucene/Solr and Elasticsearch. During these projects we can improve search speed and relevance, help clients add features such as auto-complete and 'did you mean' spelling suggestions and advise on the best way to maintain a scalable, accurate and stable platform based on open source search software.

Recently Flax visited the Ordnance Survey who said "We are increasingly developing solutions using Open Source software. Flax were able to offer short-notice support to address very specific optimisation issues in order to build our in-house skills." Other clients for which Flax have carried out similar short term engagements include Nokia, Abcam and Computerlinks.

Flax also offers specialist consultancy on search and content strategy, user experience and interface design, training on open source search and comprehensive support of open source search software up to 24/7/365 in conjunction with our partners.

Enterprise Search Europe & Cambridge Search Meetup

Flax will be running a workshop on Getting the Best from Open Source Search at the Enterprise Search Europe 2014 conference, London 28-30 April. We will also be helping to run the Open Source track. Speakers come from a wide range of organisations including Reed Business International, AstraZeneca and MAN Truck and Bus and will be covering themes including search in Sharepoint, text mining, collaborative search and search management.

www.enterprisearch europe.com/2014/



Flax will also be co-hosting a Meetup in a local pub, open to conference attendees and others: www.meetup.com/Enterprise-Search-Cambridge-UK/

About Flax

Flax is highly active in the information retrieval market with international clients from sectors including academia, public relations, e-commerce, government and private businesses. Flax's clients include The Financial Times, Accenture, NLA Media Access, The University of Cambridge and Reed Specialist Recruitment.

Flax delivers cutting-edge enterprise search solutions, using the power of open source software to drive down costs and provide world beating search performance with no software licence fees.