Project Update

Wednesday, February 18, 2004

Newsletter Customer Service Form (NLTool)

This is going to be redesigned. John is researching using C# instead of PERL… one obstacle may be the fact that the LISTS server is behind it's own, separate firewall. We may either need to put LISTS behind a physical firewall, or install the .NET development environment on the LISTS server. Change requests have been received from IRD.

Unique Visitor Tracking

The programming for this is complete, save for one bug affecting server performance. The reporting tools have been written and need only to be tested with live data before release. Once the bug is fully resolved, this will be ready for public release.

LISTS server rebuild

The newsletter server hard drive array has been rebuilt, and reformatted, and an additional CPU has been added to the server. We attempted to restore the newly rebuilt server last week, but we also attempted a database upgrade at the same time, which failed. If the database upgrade fails again, we'll simply put the rebuilt server back in place with the older version of the database.

Newsletter Clickthrough Tracking

Once the rebuilt LISTS server (see above) is back in place, we'll turn this back on.

Sports Channel Redesign PDD

This is 99% complete. What remains are a couple small items that do not affect overall functionality of the channel. One item was requested by IRD after the PDD had been turned in and is not yet done. A few other small cosmetic items are also on our pending list.

Men's Channel Redesign PDD

This is complete.

Multiple Message Board templates, Virtual Forum, and New Message Boards

On deck are message boards for Music, Movies, EFC (Canada), Lifetogether Today, Spiritual Help, Building Church Leaders, and Sports. The two highest priorities are Movies and EFC (Canada). Canada is posing a few problems because it is a separate domain, but we are working on having it ready to release by Friday. The Movies board will be launched this week as well.

Content Syndication PDD

This has been put on hold pending a meeting with IRD to clarify the project definition, scope, and requirements.

Site Traffic / Spider Traffic

We have completed a comprehensive analysis of site traffic and spider traffic. As a result of our study, we have also set up a system whereby we can capture data from our web servers that reveals which spiders out there are hiding "under the radar" that out analyses cannot pick up. Depending on the trends and the data we discover we may need to set up an automatic blocking utility that stops or dramatically slows excessive spider activity at the source.

HTML-to-XML document conversion

All content for Books and Culture, Christian History, and Leadership are fully converted to XML and ready for upload into our new database structure (even the most recent two-years' worth of material). We are now working on converting the last two years of Christianity Today magazine content, which is a huge amount of material. (CT magazine content is more than 50% of our overall Web site material.) Peter expects this to go fairly quickly once he has some scripts and programming tools built to help him (Peter estimates about 20-30 hours of additional work). Bill is finishing up details on the oldest of the

Christianity Today magazine content. The development team will be able to upload the newly XML-ized content, with keywords supplied by Resources by mid-to-late March.

XML DTD–to-Schema conversion
We are in the middle of converting our current XML DTD to an XML Schema, which will prove to be more flexible, and will provide a better platform for software development in the future. This conversion is about 70% complete.

Printer Friendly Pages (EFC [Canada])
This is in process, but not yet complete.

CTLibrary.com Template Conversion
The CTLibrary.com templates have been converted and are complete. We are currently working through changes to the templates requested by Resources, and waiting further feedback.

Four Channel Conversion into CMS
We are going to move Books and Culture, Christian History, Leadership, and Christianity Today into the CMS for content presentation. To that end, Peter has finished converting all the content for three of the channels into XML. Clay is working on providing new CMS-driven templates for the four channels. This is still in process.

Database Testing
We are researching and standardizing best practices for testing our databases before releasing them from development into practical usage.

New CTLibrary.com Subscription Form
The new CTLibrary.com customer subscription form is complete and ready to go. We are working out final details and modifications according to feedback from Resources

Project Tracking Split
We have successfully split our work tracking software so that our Internet Operations and Internet Development teams are no longer using the same tool to track and report progress on very different tasks.

Internet Development Intranet Homepage
We will soon be developing a clearinghouse of information related to current and ongoing ID projects so that interested CTI personnel can keep up with developments and have a ready reference for standards and milestones. This is currently being researched and is in process.

PreachingToday.com Design Prototype
We've had an initial meeting with PreachingToday.com to spec out what the new PreachingToday.com mega site will look like. The prototype is still in process.

SermonNotes.com Integration
This is pending the requirements from the meeting with Resources.

CampusLifeCollegeGuide.com Redesign
We've had an initial meeting with Advertising and IRD to determine requirements for the site. We will be building and design prototype next and releasing it to IRD and Advertising for approval.