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Subprogramme No. 4.5 "Networking and Access to Technology Information"

Project Title: WWW Site Indexer - A Sybase/Syberperl Solution for Building and Maintaining a Technology Database

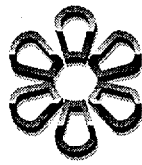
Contract: No. 97/046/IR

Contractor: Spring Firm S.r.l.

Status Report III

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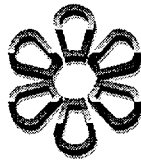
Trieste, 12 May 1998



WWW Site Indexer - A Sybase/Syperl Solution for Building and Maintaining a Technology Database

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WWW Site Indexer - A Sybase/Syberperl Solution for Building and Maintaining a Technology Database

1. Introduction

The present report covers the last part of the ICS-UNIDO project denominated "WWW Site Indexer - A Sybase/Syberperl solution for building and maintaining a technology database".

The report therefore describes the structure and the functioning of the ICS management database created by Spring Firm S.r.l. in the framework of the above mentioned project.

The system developed is aimed at monitoring the training activities carried out by ICS as well as at managing the mailing/contacts lists used and shared internally at ICS.

2. Aim of the System

The activities carried out by ICS-UNIDO require the management and the constant updating of a large number of contacts lists. These contacts can be institutional ones, namely:

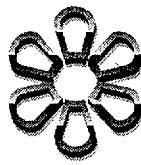
- scientists;
- politicians;
- officers belonging national as well as international organisations;
- etc.;

but also operational contacts such as:

- candidates/participants to courses;
- reference persons within Institutions/Research Centres;
- etc..

The information concerning these contact persons is used by almost every officer within ICS but normally the individual mailing lists are created and updated by different secretaries. This work organisation can generate problems since the information available is not shared and furthermore sometimes the same data are entered by several persons.

A similar problem is connected with the management of the training activities organised by ICS. Although the work required for successfully realising each of these events is massive, a standard centralised system available to all the scientific areas of interest is missing. This fact again can generate a replication of activities and does not allow to easily have, for example, an overall view of all the training activities planned or carried out over a certain period.



On the basis of these considerations it has been decided to create a simple centralised system aimed at hosting all the relevant data collected and utilised by the various ICS scientific areas of interest. The system must be available to the ICS staff via the data communication Local Area Network (LAN) and must provide simple working tools for entering/modifying the data as well as powerful means for retrieving information of interest.

3. The Solution Designed

The solution designed has been developed with the aim of creating a centralised database system accessible by remote users via Internet and managed locally at ICS-UNIDO through the LAN.

The system is represented by a unique base of information structured in a series of data-base tables linked to each other through relations.

According to ICS requirements the system has been developed in Microsoft Access 97.

3.1. The Data Structure Designed

The data structure designed consists of 12 tables interconnected through a number of relations (see Annex 1 for a representation of the data-base structure).

The designing work has been aimed at developing a conceptually solid and consistent structure characterised by minimal replication of data within the database, optimal flexibility degree and total coverage of the data items required by the project. While structuring the individual tables have been used as a sample as well as project reference materials the forms presently used at ICS such as, for example:

- Institutions profiles data sheets;
- forms developed for candidatures to training courses;
- courses description data sheets;
- etc..

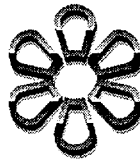
Consequently the system allows the management of all the data items presently used at ICS and, where needed, these data items can be entered with the required cardinality.

3.2. Main Functions Provided

The application produced is completely adherent to the present standards followed for the realisation of Microsoft Windows-based software and therefore is organised around a simple windowed graphics interface in which all the functions can be performed through active buttons.

The system provides the basic data-base management tools namely:

- record adding/deleting/modifying;
- sorting facilities;
- data retrieving tools;
- etc..



Furthermore the system includes a feature that allows the linking of a report to a mailing list and consequently the linking of that report to all persons belonging to that specific mailing list.

Trieste, 12 May 1998


Spring Firm S.r.l.



Annex 1

A Representation of the Data-Base Structure

