TRASH.NET WITH SUN POWER
Sun supports committed IT freaks

On one hand trash.net is an association of IT freaks, and on the other a fascinating site on which trash.net members can set up non-commercial projects and exchange their experiences. In order for trash.net to be able to expand its services further, it receives support from two companies with common goals: Sun Microsystems and AdNovum.

The name 'trash.net' could be rather misleading. But it is soon apparent that this association offers quite a lot to its 118 members and approximately 200 regular users. trash.net's chairman Daniel Boos explains: "trash.net is an alternative to commercialization on the Internet – a platform for creative minds – and one that our members can use for setting up non-commercial projects." Examples of such projects are a site for Latin and Ancient Greek – yoda.trash.net – which has excellent links, and – last but not least – beer.trash.net which boasts around 440 of the types of beer most highly esteemed by its users. Here, you can even send a virtual beer postcard, with the widest imaginable range of beer labels. "A year ago, it was even reported on in the Washington Post," recalls Lukas Karrer, a founder member of trash.net. "Traffic of up to 1000 visitors per day brought us to the capacity limits." Capacity limits – and how to overcome them – are also at the heart of this article.

Capacity for new projects

trash.net started up in 1996 with a Sun IPX Server. At first, the server just had to cope with the founder members' home pages and e-mails. But once the membership figures had begun to increase steadily, the Sun IPX was soon out of its depth. It was succeeded by a Sun SPARC™ 5 and thereafter by a Sun Ultra™ 1. This provided sterling service until its limits, too, were reached by beer.net and other projects. As Karrer explains, "We couldn't take on any new projects, because they would have jammed normal traffic."

Luckily, a member of trash.net is also a Practice Manager at Sun Professional Services: Fredy Fischer, who is represented with his database administration tool on trash.net. Thanks to Fischer, Sun Microsystems was able to give trash.net a Sun Enterprise™ 220R server and even provide maintenance free of charge.

"We are very happy about this valuable contribution from Sun Microsystems." Daniel Boos, Chairman of trash.net

yoda.trash.net

beer.trash.net

your.trash.net

http://trash.net/

TRASH.NET WITH SUN POWER

ACTION@SUN
Nicholas is here!

A powerful alternative to Linux and NT

Boos confirms, "We are very happy about this valuable contribution from Sun Microsystems. The performance benefit was immediately apparent, and suddenly, it was possible for many more people to be logged on simultaneously. Previously you might have had 2 to 3 people logged on the same time, but now it is often 10 to 15 working on their projects, together with the public users of trash.net and its Web pages. At last, we have some reserves once again."

Karrer expresses his enthusiasm as a professed fan of Sun: "Many of our members are students, but lots of them are 'freaks' who work in the IT environment, from information technology trainees through to security officers for a major bank. For many of them, it may be their first opportunity to work with a commercial application of UNIX®, so they have the chance to get to know a powerful alternative to Linux and NT. Thanks to UNIX®, everything is transparent, and you can see how other people are configuring their servers, you can reuse modules and you can make adaptations to meet your own requirements."

Sponsors with common commitment

So where is trash.net going now? The answer from Boos is, "We want to offer our members the same level of service, but more cheaply. We want them to be able to make the best possible use of web facilities, and we want them to help other people to be able to exchange experiences, for example through the often fascinating discussions via mailing lists. For the first time, too, we held this year's AGM in a virtual environment. What I personally would like to see is healthy growth in the numbers of members, a larger proportion of women taking part and stronger commitment from members, so that not everything is left up to the management." trash.net is also currently providing support for two associated organizations: the Symlink news portal and SIUG, the Swiss Internet Users Group. In future, trash.net would like to intensify these types of partnerships even more.

But their plans for expansion always experience the limiting factors of finance and hardware. Consequently trash.net is dependent on sponsors. Another sponsor in addition to Sun Microsystems is Sun's partner AdNovum Informatik AG whose head office is in Zurich. Amongst other forms of support provided by AdNovum, it finances hosting and makes it possible for management members – who work free of charge – to at least get their expenditures refunded. In this joint sponsoring situation, it's nice to see that Sun Microsystems and also AdNovum are committed to open standards.

Peter Wilhelm
1-2-1 Communication

trash.net links:

www.trash.net   yoda.trash.net
beer.trash.net

You can smell the Christmas cookies, it's wonderfully warm inside, it's snowing outside and there's something quite extraordinary in the air, despite the peaceful mood. Here comes Nicholas, have you heard him ring his bell yet? You hear something banging – standing there in his heavy boots with his long flowing beard, he's knocking at the front door. The children's hearts are beating almost as loudly.

Now he's here! There's his big golden book. What secrets must be in there. All the events of a whole year can come to light. So how does he know it all? Well, he has a lot of friends, blackbirds, sparrows, robins, finches and jackdaws – the whole family of birds tell him what's been going on. They saw from the window sill when you didn't go to bed when you should. They will have seen you stealing the cherries from the neighbor's garden. They saw if you threw a bit of paper and missed the wastepaper basket at school, and it landed on the floor. They told all the stories to Nicholas in his little house in the forest, and he wrote it down carefully in his golden book.

But he hasn't just got the golden book. No, he's also got loads of presents, big and small: mandarins, nuts and cookies. And anyone who can recite a little poem for him will get some of these delicious presents and might even be allowed to give the donkey a sugar cube.

Isn't it great to know that Sun Microsystems has got their own Nicholas working for them as well. As the Marketing Project Manager of Enterprise Services, it may not be his job to hand out presents every day of the year, but his team's support employees are very often as keenly awaited as Nicholas is on December 6th.

Markus Solinger