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Reply-To: jxf@immagic.com
Sender: JASIG Uportal Developers List <JASIG-DEV@LIST.UNM.EDU>
From: Jim Farmer <jxf@IMMAGIC.COM>
Subject: Implementing RSS
Comments: To: JASIG-DEV@linux08.UNM.EDU
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The question on the list was availability of RSS 2.0 style sheets. This is what Jon Allen had to say Saturday about RSS:

im+m has an RSS 1.0 stylesheet available. Contact Jon at JFA@immagic.com for a copy. He wrote:

The modules that we support in our 1.0 stylesheet are:

The three that are part of the standard

1 Dublin Core

2 Syndication

3 Content - this is the one that allows for xhtml fragments, I

was incorrect at breakfast by saying that it was native to the standard.

Other Modules we support

4 Event

5 Streaming Media

There were two very similar 0.91 specifications; one by Netscape and one by Dave Winer at UserLand Software Inc. Version 1.0 was developed from the 0.91 and incorporated W3C's RDF. Dave Winer produced a different set of standards 0.92, 0.93, and 0.94 before issuing 2.0. Note 2.0 and 1.0 are quite different because of different perspectives on RDF. Aaron Swartz then issued 3.0 that does not use XML. Swartz has been a principal author of the RSS specifications.

Last December, Jon raised the question of what to support with Eric van der Vliet, who edited the RSS specification. Jon wrote:

Eric van der Vlist was one of the authors of the RSS 1.0 specification and an XML leader in France (XMLfr.org). Earlier this year he provided documents to JA-SIG on the RSS specification. Divergent versions 2.0 and 3.0 of the RSS specification have been proposed. [The] key question was what version of RSS should be used. van der Vlist said version 1.0. He commented that 1.0 and the approved modules are now so widely implemented, that 1.0 can be used by all but a few sites. He said he was not able to comment on the future of version 2.0 or 3.0 at this time, but did say that additional RSS 1.0 modules would be approved without significant changes. ("Dublin Core," "Syndication" and "Content" are approved. The im+m RSS version 1.0 XSLT also supports "Steaming" and "Event".

More than 20 modules extending RSS 1.0 have been suggested, but the RDF or not-RDF discussion has delayed any formal action by the RSS group. As a strategy, publishers should use either 0.92 or 1.0 with approved modules. For uPortal users, it would be helpful if both feeds using 1.0+modules and 2.0 could be supported. Justin and Jon elected to implement event and streaming media because these are applicable to many higher education applications. Although there has been work on

stylesheets that support both 1.0 and 2.0, the support of approved and proposed modules varies widely. Jon said im+m does not expect to extend their stylesheet until there is some clarification of RSS standards.

jim farmer