

the one where I witter about scribot

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what is scribot?

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- scribot is 'an interesting collection of links apparently collected by a group of people in order to share among themselves'
- so it's both a bot and the web front end to the data the bot collects

using scribot as a bot

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- just go onto an IRC channel and say:

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- how do I add links?
- just go onto an IRC channel and say:
- 'scribot: <http://london.pm.org/> # a site I like'
- this gets stored

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- used URI::Find, and presented entries (backwards)
- archives were updated manually, then not at all
- this was BAD. Things had to change.

the solution

- how do you archive data?
- possibly by nick. bad idea.
- we could just have implemented a search over the raw text file

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- possibly by nick. bad idea.
- we could just have implemented a search over the raw text file
- usually, though, archives are by date

so, a new problem

- scribot merely recorded nicks and comments
- (there's an aside here about link catching, which I can go in to)
- later, I forced Leon to add a patch to record days

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- (there's an aside here about link catching, which I can go in to)
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- what about the old data?

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- ... about 75 MB or so, I reckon.
- irc logs are dated, and I'm on channel a lot
- ... so I have the dates most things are 'scribotted' at

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- keyed on the line of the entry
- value is a hash of time and nick
- then, read in the logs
- crossreference by lines, and add nicks and dates

the caveats

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- about 1800 entries have no timestamp
- another 50 or so were modified

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- I blame muttley
- still, diff is a wonderful thing

giving it back

- Leon got sent the old entries with dates
- added these to the newer entries

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- put them into an SQLite database

giving it back

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- added these to the newer entries
- put them into an SQLite database
- and added a SOAP api

'scribot nfe'

- finally I had the infrastructure
- and I could build the glossy bit
- main aims were to make the site easier to scan
- although I also played with CSS a bit

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- 'simple' vs 'advanced' search

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- finally we've added this now
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- still the problem of the undated stuff
- you can find it with search, though

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why did scribot work?

- it's dead easy to use
- it's grown when people wanted it to
- underpromise, overdeliver
- (managing to screw that up)

thank you

thank you

- for coming

thank you

- for coming
- and for listening