

LimeSurvey

Designing a beautiful open source survey engine

# I. WHO ARE WE?

MITRE

non-profit  
federally-funded  
R&D  
engineering-centric  
doing good for citizens

1,100,000,000 revenue in 2007

5500 staff

998 projects

73 locations across earth

50 years old

3 centers

1 Open Services department

Open Services

fast and out of control  
open source  
design-centric  
rapid prototyping  
enterprise engineering  
doing good for planet earth

department stats

28 staff

21 engineers

17 projects

6 designers

6 published papers

1 open design group

skills

16 java

11 ruby on rails

8 research

7 interface design

6 systems eng

3 cell-top

## 2. WHAT ARE WE DOING THAT'S WORTH TALKING ABOUT?

Probably nothing but

Smarter decisions based on  
beautiful evidence

and Open Source.

(our secret sauce)

ENweb

LimeSurvey





ESC-funded  
 engineering metrics  
 process and risk tracking  
 dashboards + aggregation  
 wiki library



reluctant users  
 loved *in theory* by enthusiastic leadership  
 actively developed

won Air Force KM award in Apr 2005

2,500 worldwide users  
 500 hits/day  
 400 program dashboards  
 30 wiki edits/day  
 3 years since birth  
 1 language  
 1.5 current version



In 2007:  
 Buzz building around ENweb

“I want ENweb... behind my firewall.”

Dashboards and Wikis and Metrics, oh my.

Air Force: AFMC, ESC, SMC

Navy: SPAWAR

FFRDC: MITRE, Aerospace

ENweb not ready for prime time.

Evolving prototype  
 Spaghetti code and design  
 Requires significant effort to update  
 or create surveys

3. OPEN SOURCE  
 BUSINESS MODEL

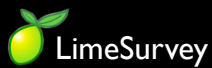
THE CULTURE OF ABUNDANCE

match.com

from scratch

Web Survey Toolbox

WUFOO  
 Making forms easy - fast - fun.



LimeSurvey

open source survey engine  
vibrant community  
actively developed

won Les Trophees du Libre in Nov 2007

>1,000,000 worldwide users

150,000 total downloads

300 downloads/day

181 SF rank

36 languages

4 years since birth

1.5.3 current version

Nov 07 Limesurvey.org

460,000 page hits

25,000 unique visitors

>100 Google: survey

10 Google: open source survey

6 Google page rank

Global PL Carsten Schmitz

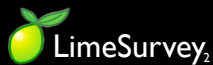
40 Translators

17 Code contributors in 2007

5 mainstay developers

2 FT MITRE staff on dev + design

1 Prospective business partner



LimeSurvey<sub>2</sub>

Data + Metrics Collection  
Robust Reporting  
Survey Creation + Maintenance  
Packaged Service



LimeSurvey<sub>2</sub>

Advanced conditionals  
Looping  
Continuous Surveys, History  
UI Framework:  
•Plugin Question Types  
•Plugin Language  
Beautiful user interface

Stretch goal:

1-click install for any user (including ISPs)

For example:

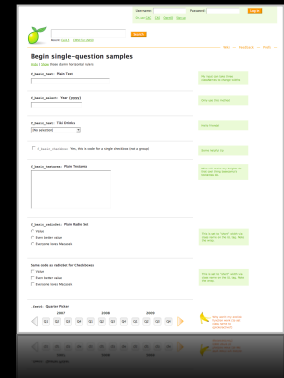
GoDaddy has LS2 installed; integrated in their application suite

# Data Metrics + Collection

Intuitive, web-based surveys

Inline help, links to guidance, error handling

Question Library:  
design.limesurvey.org



# Robust Reporting

Slice and dice data for the best view for you



# Robust Reporting Over Time

OSS&E show summary export  
Last updated 2 weeks ago



## WATCHLIST

show summary export  
Last updated 1 week ago

Issue	State	PRC	Weekend	2006	2007	2008	Completed by	Priority/Status	OTR
Usage of Project X4 over COP radars at risk due to incompatibility...	●●●●●	PRC	57				31 Dec 08	Cost	McCormack, Lee
Baseline Project Management with KRIs	●●●●●	PRC	86				31 Dec 08	Technical	McCormack, Lee
Definition of low bandwidth routers installed on site with...	●●●●●	PRC	48				26 Jul 08	Technical	Battle, Guy
Program Performance of Reorganized Project X4 Team	●●●●●	PRC	86				31 Dec 08	Schedule	McCormack, Lee
Software Requirements in flux	●●●●●	PRC	86				20 Dec 08	Technical	Battle, Guy

## LEADING INDICATORS

show summary export  
Last updated 3 weeks ago

Leading Indicator	State	PRC	Comments	Government
Processes	●●●●●	PRC		
Resources	●●●●●	PRC		
Requirements	●●●●●	PRC		
Engineering Documentation	●●●●●	PRC	Lack of concrete deliverables from AF.	
Risk Handling	●●●●●	PRC	Adverse working environment in desert.	On-site development process falling...
Risk Exposure Trends	●●●●●	PRC		
Interfaces, Integrations, Interoperability, and Interdependencies	●●●●●	PRC	Dependence on 3rd party (Disaster Inc.).	Vendor cross-communication is difficult...
Software Development	●●●●●	PRC		
Hardware Development	●●●●●	PRC		
Verification and Validation	●●●●●	PRC		
Review Action Closure Trends	●●●●●	PRC		

# Survey Creation and Maintenance

Create and administer surveys

No developer skills required

Survey Creation User Interface

Evolve, view, and edit surveys over time

## Packaged Service

Deploy on your own servers

Decouple organizational details

Branding and personalization

Open Source framework

## Releases

LimeSurvey 2 pre-alpha  
Thursday December 20, 2007

LimeSurvey 2 alpha  
Thursday February 28, 2008

LimeSurvey 2 beta  
Thursday May 29, 2008

## Tasks

January 2008

- Question Templating (Smarty)
- User Administration, Group management, Survey Assignment
- Basic Reporting
- UI for survey taking
- Take a damn survey

February/March 2008

- Solid Data Model
- Authentication: CAS, PKI
- Create a Survey (UI + basic prototype)
- Solid UI
- Support LimeSurvey core question set

LS2 Alpha: 28.Feb.2008

April 2008

- Advanced Reporting
- Polished UI
- Anonymous Surveys

May 2008

- DB Partitioning
- Languages
- Email/Alerts
- Authentication: additional methods
- Create a Survey: advanced techniques

LS2 Beta: 29.May.2008

June 2008

- Email Surveys
- Mini-survey plugins (for individuals websites/blogs - "hot or not")
- Voting/Polling
- Advanced Question Library Types

## ENweb/LimeSurvey team

Michael Macasek 75%

Brian O'Neill 15%

Juhan Sonin 60%

Robert Thew 100%

Carsten Schmitz will join in January 2008.

## 4. SO WHAT?

## Impact

Branch coordinators for 1m+ user open source app

Lead MITRE and our customers into a new business practice

Design a beautiful service... something I would actually use and want people to know about

# Harvard-MITRE

FY08 mutual goal: OS survey engine

We're local

Social Science + Engineering + Design

Design Review: 3.Jan.08

Code Review: 10.Jan.08

Harvard/MITRE Tasks

Juhan Sonin  
[jsonin@mitre.org](mailto:jsonin@mitre.org)  
781.271.4647

Rob Thew  
[rthew@mitre.org](mailto:rthew@mitre.org)

Michael Macasek  
[mmacasek@mitre.org](mailto:mmacasek@mitre.org)