



Bamboo: now it's Personal!

The Personal Edition of Bamboo, the research tool for academics and researchers, is to be released next month. It is the latest addition to the Bamboo suite of software, developed by Lemur. As with the full, multi-user web version, Bamboo Personal Edition (PE) allows researchers to make unexpected associations and connections in their data and being based on a probabilistic information retrieval system, significantly increases the chances of finding what you're looking for, or even discovering things you weren't even aware of!

Bamboo Personal is designed for personal databases containing all types of multimedia data: text, images, audio and video. An unlimited number of databases may be created and each database may contain millions of records. It is available for Windows,

Linux and Macintosh platforms and is accessed through a standard web browser (e.g. Internet Explorer, Safari or Mozilla Firefox) so is easy to learn and user-friendly. Data is



Screen shot from Bamboo PE

held in a highly compressed and efficient form and may be input and output as industry-standard XML. Searching is very fast and intuitive; Bamboo PE allows a search query to be any shape or pattern of words and this flexibility combined with the chances

of finding a number of other interesting records on the same theme makes it an excellent research tool. Bamboo PE is supported by an online forum and may be downloaded from the internet at a cost of £126.81 +VAT £22.19 total £149.00.

Bamboo Personal is designed for individual use on a single PC. Other versions of Bamboo will allow collaboration between a group of people all working on the same database and may be customised for users' specific requirements, as well as a range of other useful features.

Please contact Lemur for an online demo, details and prices. Lemur can also offer training, installation and customisation of the full versions of Bamboo to your exact requirements, as well as full support via email and telephone.

Business Search Systems

Most businesses have a huge and increasing volume of digital data to make available to their workforces. The gradual adoption of computers has left many organisations with a plethora of different systems, each with its own quirks and pitfalls, advantages and disadvantages. Staff are simply unwilling to use complicated systems for finding information. If a member of staff who can easily search billions of records on the internet - by typing in a few words and clicking a button - cannot do the same for a much smaller number of documents at work, then existing investment in computer systems is wasted, and vital information may be missed.

Users need a way of searching everything the company knows as quickly and simply as they search the Internet. Lemur is recommending a low cost solution: to use proven open source information retrieval software, which has exceptional performance across millions of records, and can be used for free! Charges are limited to any customisation or set up for specific data and operating requirements, and any support or training needed; making considerable cost savings when compared with closed source proprietary systems.

Lemur is at the cutting edge of search technology and has clients in the academic, legal, e-commerce and public relations industries.

The Google Code

Google is one of the worlds largest consumers of open source software; it runs the Google search engine. To encourage further open source development, Google holds a summer program, paying students to work through their holidays on open source projects, under experienced developers who mentor the students.

This year, Lemur's Richard Boulton is mentoring a student integrating the Xapian search system into a popular content management system. This will provide advanced search features as well as help spread knowledge of the Xapian software and the value of open source software.

About Lemur

Lemur offers expert systems advice and customised information retrieval software. As search engine specialists, we can:

- Provide your website or intranet with a high performance search engine
- Offer multimedia database solutions with probabilistic search and XML editing facilities
- Produce information retrieval software for specific purposes; such as building tools that will display data in graphical form, or sort documents automatically.

Lemur also provides general expertise and development in technologies such as Java, C++, Linux, Windows and XML. "We promise to explain ourselves in a clear and jargon free manner, giving you accurate and honest advice."