techline

Proof of Concept Demonstrations

The U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) began its first demonstrations of the internal Release 1B proof of concept in early September, and will continue giving demos up to and throughout beta testing. GPO has demonstrated Release 1B functionality to internal business units and GPO management, congressional representatives from both the House and Senate, members of the library community, staffers from the Joint Committee on Printing, and several federal agency customers. The demos acted as a status update for FDsys, and allowed GPO to showcase current progress. The demo also acted as a baseline to discuss extended features in later releases.

The response to the demos was very positive and elicited constructive criticisms and valuable feedback. For example, as a result of the demos GPO will be consulting with a usability expert to further improve the user interfaces and overall experience with the system. GPO will review all feedback provided by stakeholders and will continue to refine the system to meet expectations and will also be contacting attendees about participating in the unscripted beta test for additional feedback.

Beta Testing

The FDsys beta version will be released to select internal and external audiences to ensure that the foundation for FDsys is operating as expected. Beta testing is the process of operating and questioning a product in order to evaluate it. The testing process reveals errors and information of interest to the system developers.

Both scripted and unscripted beta testing will occur for Release 1B. Scripted, or formal, beta testing will occur during a ten day period in a controlled environment. Participants in scripted beta testing will be identified by each business unit and follow predefined tasks, or scripts. Scripted beta testing is a process based approach used to ensure all functions are working properly.

Unscripted beta testing will occur for approximately two months following scripted testing. Contrary to scripted beta testing, access will be available remotely. Users will also have the opportunity to test all of the functionality of 1B rather than following set procedures. Feedback for beta testing will be gathered through feedback forms, interviews, and focus groups. Beta testers will include GPO employees, Congress, Federal Agencies, and Depository Libraries. Participants will be identified by GPO's business units or by volunteers contacting GPO through email at pmo@gpo.gov.

<table>
<tr><td>✓ Excellent</td></tr>
<tr><td>☐ Very good</td></tr>
<tr><td>☐ Good</td></tr>
<tr><td>☐ Average</td></tr>
<tr><td>☐ Poor</td></tr>
</table>

Inside This Issue

- Proof of Concept
  - Beta Testing
    - Release 1C Update
  - FAQs
- FDsys Outreach

GPO

What's Next for FDsys?

Status Update for Release 1C

Several valuable lessons were learned from the Release 1B proof of concept developed by a team of GPO and Harris employees. 1B showed the team the benefits of deploying a system in incremental releases. The FDsys team has decided to divide Release 1C into three increments. This approach will ensure the successful delivery of core functionality that can be built upon in subsequent releases. The capabilities to be included in each increment are outlined below. The capabilities to be provided in Releases 2 and 3 have not changed.

Releases 1C.2 and 1C.3

Infrastructure and Security:
In Release 1B, the FDsys team installed the core infrastructure and security components necessary for an internal pilot. Additional infrastructure components, such as storage devices and computer processors, must be added to the system to support an increase in users and data.

ILS Integration:
The Release 1B pilot demonstrated data transfer from GPO's ILS to FDsys. In Release 1C.2, integration between FDsys and ILS will enable the two-way exchange of MARC bibliographic metadata.

Access and Delivery:
During the development of Releases 1C.2 and 1C.3, content currently on GPO Access will be migrated to FDsys and made available to the public for search and retrieval. WAIS will be replaced by the FAST search engine demonstrated by the 1B proof of concept. FDsys search features will include a simple search, an advanced fielded search, a citation search, an expert Boolean search, and collection specific search features. FDsys will support searches using Boolean operators, stemming, wildcards, and proximity operators. Users will be able to sort and filter search results, search within search results, and navigate to related content. Content and metadata will be available for viewing, printing, and downloading in various formats. PDF files that have been digitally signed by GPO will be available through FDsys.

Congressional Submission:
FDsys will provide Congressional offices with an interface to electronically submit Congressional Bills and internal documents (e.g., letterhead and envelopes) to GPO. Content and jobs will be stored in a work-in-process area until approved for submission to GPO. Additional functionality such as bulk submissions of content and user alerts will also be provided. GPO's Plant Operations will have an FDsys interface to access content and job information, submit new renditions of content, add additional job information, and upload additional content to FDsys for public access.

Release 1C.4

Complete Content Submission:
FDsys will provide interfaces for Federal agencies, the Office of the Federal Register, and the U.S. Congress to electronically submit all content and jobs to GPO.

Release 1C.2 & 1C.3

ACCESS & DELIVERY
ILS INTEGRATION
INFRASTRUCTURE & SECURITY
CONGRESSIONAL SUBMISSION

Release 1C.4

AGENCY SUBMISSION
OFR SUBMISSION

GPO

What is FDsys?

FDsys is an advanced digital system that will enable the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) to manage information in digital form. FDsys will preserve, authenticate, provide version control, and facilitate access to digital content from all three branches of the U.S. Government. The U.S. Congress, U.S. Courts, and Federal agencies will be capable of submitting files to GPO for printing and inclusion into the FDLP program through FDsys. In order to ensure public access as technology evolves, the system must be free from dependence on specific hardware or software.

What is the FDsys implementation plan?

FDsys will be implemented through a series of releases, with each release building upon the features of the previous release. There are multiple releases planned over the next two years, with beta testing occurring prior to each public release. The initial public release (Release 1C) is scheduled for 2008; subsequent releases will follow approximately six months later.

How did you decide what would go into each release?

Each release builds upon the features of the previous release. Modifications to the system will be made based on feedback from beta testing and each release prior to the subsequent release. Decisions regarding the features of each release were made in collaboration with GPO business units weighing development time, importance, and cost.

Will users be authenticated?

Public users may search anonymously without the need of a login or password. Other users may establish an FDsys user identity, which will allow additional capabilities such as content submission.

How will the migration of legacy content to FDsys be handled?

There is a Data Migration Working Group focusing on this issue. Most of the focus at this time is on GPO Access legacy content. However, other groups of legacy content, such as publication files stored on the "Permanent" server will need to be ingested into FDsys. Projects such as the PURL migration to Handles need to provide a migration path for legacy data.

How will FDsys integrate with the ILS?

FDsys and the Integrated Library System (ILS) will exchange bibliographic records (descriptive metadata), so that users can search and access content in-scope for GPO's dissemination programs. In-scope content in FDsys will be represented by a record in the ILS, although that record may be very brief. When GPO Service Specialists create or update an ILS record, that data will be passed to FDsys where it will be searchable by the FAST search engine. When content is ingested into FDsys, its metadata will be transformed into MARC format and passed to the ILS. In the ILS it will create a new record or enhance the information in the existing record.

How will GPO Access be enhanced and what new features will be added?

FDsys will provide more advanced search and retrieval capabilities, including the ability to search on both full text content and metadata fields. Content and metadata will be available for download through FDsys. Out-releases will provide additional customization and alerting capabilities.

FDsys Communication Update

The Program Management Office's (PMO) outreach efforts throughout the past six months have been extensive and far reaching. A focus group on search features and functionality was held in coordination with the Spring Depository Library Council Meeting. Working groups have been established with The Office of the Clerk of the House and The Office of the Secretary of the Senate. GPO informational sessions were held throughout the past three months in San Francisco, Seattle, Denver, Dallas, Chicago, Columbus, Philadelphia, Hampton, and Atlanta.

These sessions were attended by employees of over thirty Federal Agencies. The PMO also participated in the following conferences or meetings:

- Government Information Technology Committee meeting at ALA
- NDIPP Partner's Meeting at the University of Maryland
- AALL Authentication Summit
- PREMIS tutorial at the Library of Congress
- NIST Interoperability Week
- IS&T Archiving Conference
- Special Libraries Association (SLA)

Mike Wash, Chief Information Officer
Scott Stovall, Director of Strategy, Programs and Technology
    Brenda Washington, Administrative Support
Communications:
    Carrie Gibb, Program Communications
    Moira Shea, Program Communications
Technology:
    Deng Wu, Lead Innovation Specialist
    George Barnum, Content System Manager

Kirk Knoll, PMO Associate Director
    Matt Landgraf, Lead Program Planner
    Adam Schwartz, Program Planner
    Magan Mohrmann, Program Planner

Gil Baldwin, PMO Associate Director
    Kate Zwaard, Program Planner
    Elizabeth Pruszko, Program Planner

Selene Dalecky, PMO Associate Director
    Lisa LaPlant, Lead Program Planner
    Kirk Petri, Program Planner
    Blake Edwards, Program Planner