



PlanetData
Network of Excellence
FP7 – 257641

D7.1 Web Site Online

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Abstract

This deliverable contains a description of the contents and structure of the PlanetData web site, which can be found at: <http://www.planet-data.eu>.

Executive summary

This deliverable contains a description of the main content and structural decisions related to the PlanetData web site [5]. The web site can be found at: <http://www.planet-data.eu> and contains information on the project, the involved people and organizations, as well as the project's results, activities (research, data provisioning and management, impact – see also the project's Description of Work [4]), and programs. In addition, interested organizations can apply through the web site for joining the project as an associate partner. The web site is the basic means for disseminating the project's results and activities to people interested in large-scale data management.

The purpose of this deliverable is to provide a reference point for the contents and structure of the web site, as well as to contain a description of envisioned future work on the web site, including possible new content, maintenance procedures etc. As such, it is addressed to all people who are interested to use, work with, or maintain the web site, and, in particular, to project participants, the European Commission, potential associate partners and the general public interested in large-scale data management.

The web site was created using the Drupal Content Management System [2], which allows the use of the RDF [1] technology. Each page consists of four regions, three of which contain static content and are used for quick one-click navigation to the most interesting information presented in the site, whereas the fourth region contains the page-specific information that the visitor asked to see. The various pages of the site contain important information on the project as a whole, on the three main activities in the project (research, data provisioning and management, impact), on the PlanetData programs, as well as an application form for interested organizations to become associate partners.

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Abbreviations

API : Application Programming Interface

CMS: Content Management System

EC: European Commission

FP7: 7th Framework Programme

RDF: Resource Description Framework

1 Introduction

This deliverable is about the PlanetData web site [5], which constitutes the project's official web presence, as well as the basic means for disseminating the project's results and activities to people interested in large-scale data management. The aim of this deliverable is to describe the main organizational and structural decisions related to the design of this web site, as well as the site's current (and envisioned future) content. It is meant as an aid and point of reference to the people who want to use, work with, or maintain the web site.

In Section 2, we present the main structural and organizational decisions, such as the Content Management System (CMS) chosen and the general structure of the pages in the site. In Section 3, we describe the web site contents, per page. These two sections are meant as an aid to the visitor, in order to know the expected contents of each page in the site; as a point of reference to the maintainer, in order to be able to know the intended content of pages (even if they are currently empty, e.g., because the corresponding content has not yet been created) and put the content in the correct place as it is provided; as a tool for the European Commission (EC) to verify that the project has fulfilled its contractual obligations that were set out in the Description of Work [4] as related to the web site; and as a reminder for project's partners for material relevant to the web site (so that whenever new related material is produced, FORTH staff is informed to upload it on the site).

The web site is maintained by FORTH. Nonetheless, all partners are expected to contribute to the web site by providing additional material. Some basic information on the maintenance procedures appear in Section 4 of this deliverable. These procedures will guarantee the timely maintenance of the web site, even if the current maintenance staff in FORTH is replaced.

In Section 5, we sum-up and describe envisioned future work on the web site. This is mostly provided as an aid to future maintainers.

2 Main Structural and Organizational Decisions

The web site was created using the Drupal CMS [2], which is a free, open-source software package that allows anyone to easily publish, manage and organize a wide variety of content on a web site. In addition, Drupal supports RDF-related features and RDF-enabled content, through a special module, the RDF API for Drupal, which provides a uniform API and storage abstraction layer for querying and storing RDF [1] statements in repositories. The latter is important, as we wanted a CMS that can support the technologies researched in the project, such as RDF (as also contractually specified in [4]). In the following months, we will explore how the RDF-related features of Drupal can be best exploited to semantically enable the PlanetData web site.



Figure 1. Main page of the PlanetData web site, enhanced with rectangles showing the four regions

Each page in the web site is split in 4 areas (called *regions* in Drupal terminology): top, left, right and bottom. Figure 1 shows the main page of the web site, where we have superimposed 4 rectangles (coloured green, red, orange and black) to indicate the top, left, right and bottom regions respectively. The top, right and bottom region contain static content, i.e., their content does not change as the visitor navigates through the various pages of the web site. The left region is the main region where the content of the currently visited

page is displayed; details on the contents of this region appear in the respective sections describing the web pages in the site (Section 3). More details on the contents of the 3 static regions appear in Subsection 3.1.

Apart from the main page, there are 6 pages in the web site, namely:

- “About”, which contains the “Partners” and “Deliverables” subpages
- “Research”, which contains the “Publications” and “Presentations” subpages
- “Data and Technology”, which contains the “Data Sets and Vocabularies” and “Data Provisioning and Management Tools” subpages
- “Training”, which contains the “Curriculum” and “Training Events” subpages
- “PlanetData Programs”
- “Join PlanetData”

More details on the content of the main page and the 6 aforementioned pages (and their subpages) appear in the respective Subsections (3.2-3.8) of this deliverable.

3 Content

3.1 Static Regions

As explained before, all pages in the site contain three regions whose content is static. These regions are positioned in the top, left and bottom parts of the page.

Most of the top-most region is covered by the banner that contains the PlanetData logo. Below that, one can find a navigation menu, i.e., links to each of the pages of the website; this allows one to navigate to any page from any page, with a single click to one of the menu items. Note that some of the menu items contain sub-items, which are also clickable and lead to pages which are hierarchically “below” the main menu items. In addition, this region contains a news ticker that displays (clickable) news related to PlanetData, as well as links to the PlanetData accounts in popular social networking sites (namely, facebook and twitter).

The right region is divided into three sub-regions. The first contains a set of scrolling logos, each of which is the logo of one of the organizations which are core or associate members of the consortium. The logos are clickable, so that the visitor can visit the web site of the corresponding partner, if desired. The second sub-region contains the three latest news that are related to the consortium and project; clicking on them leads the visitor to the corresponding news item to learn more. The list of all news can be found by using the link “More News...” that appears in the same sub-region; using this link the visitor can see all the news in detail, the most recent one being first in the list. Note also that news items are automatically posted also in the facebook and twitter accounts of the project, and that the same sub-region contains a button that allows the visitor to subscribe to an RSS feed that will keep him informed when a recent news item is added. Finally, the third sub-region contains links to various PR materials, such as the project’s factsheet and flyer, and the press releases associated with the project.

The bottom region provides acknowledgement to the EC funding, by informing the reader that the project’s funding comes from the 7th Framework Programme (FP7) of the EC; it also provides a link to the main page describing FP7.

3.2 Main Page

The main page is the first page that the visitor sees when entering the web site. As such, it does not contain much content of its own, but its main use is to display a summary of the top-hierarchy pages of the navigation menu (which appears in the top region). In addition, the visitor can click on the corresponding “Read more ...” link to see the related page.

3.3 About

The “About” page contains some general information on the project, namely its aims and scope, as well as information about core and associate partners. Furthermore, it contains information on the PlanetData programs.

3.3.1 Partners

The partners page is split into three parts. In the topmost part, one can see a scrolling graphic with the logos of the core and associate partners; as usual, these logos are clickable so that the visitor can go to the corresponding home page of the partner for more information. The middle part is a map of Europe (taken from google maps [3]) where the locations of the core and associate partners’ institutions are depicted. The lowest part contains a similar scrolling graphic with the name, photo and affiliation of the key people in the project; this graphic is not clickable though.

3.3.2 Deliverables

In the deliverables page, a list of the deliverables that the project is contractually bound to produce during its lifetime is presented, along with the related deadline. This list contains clickable items, through which the visitor can download the already produced deliverables.

3.4 Research

This page contains a general description of the research undertaken in PlanetData. This corresponds to actions undertaken in the context of Activity 1 (research) in the project (see the project's Description of Work [4]).

3.4.1 Publications

This page will contain the publications that will be produced in the context of PlanetData. At the moment, the page is empty, as no publications have been produced yet.

3.4.2 Presentations

This page will contain the official presentations that will be produced in the context of PlanetData for results' dissemination, review by the EC or other purposes. At the moment, the page is empty, as no presentations have been given.

3.5 Data and Technology

This page provides a general introduction to the expected use of datasets and data management and provisioning tools in the project. This corresponds to actions undertaken in the context of Activity 2 (data provisioning and management) in the project (see the project's Description of Work [4]).

3.5.1 Data Sets and Vocabularies

This page will contain links to a number of datasets and vocabularies that will be used for the evaluation of the technologies researched in PlanetData. These datasets will be typically generated by organizations which are not PlanetData partners, but collaborate with PlanetData in the interest of having their data online.

3.5.2 Data Provisioning and Management Tools

This page will contain links to a number of data provisioning tools, which can help data owners publish their data sets online, as well as data management tools, which will provide hands-on access to cutting-edge data management technology produced in the database, stream processing, and semantics areas.

3.6 Training

The training page presents a brief description of the training and dissemination activities that will be undertaken in the project; these actions are related to Activity 3 (impact) in the project (see the project's Description of Work [4]).

3.6.1 Curriculum

This page will contain details on the curriculum to be developed in the context of Task 6.1 of PlanetData (see the Description of Work [4]). At the moment, the page is empty, as the curriculum is expected to be delivered by M6 (as deliverable D6.1), i.e., by the end of March, 2011.

3.6.2 Training Events

This page will contain links towards the training events organized by the project, such as summer schools, tutorials, web-casts and others. These events will be organized as part of Task 6.2 of PlanetData (see the Description of Work [4]).

3.7 PlanetData Programs

This page contains information on the PlanetData programs, which have been conceived as a means for PlanetData to fund excellent research proposals whose aims are relevant to the objectives of the project.

3.8 Join PlanetData

This page contains information on the concept of associate partners, i.e., institutions and organizations that are interested in the project's theme (large-scale data management). In addition, the page contains an application form that can be used for applying to become an associate partner and obtain the related benefits (described in the same page).

4 Maintenance

FORTH is responsible for the setting up, maintenance and day-to-day management of the project's web site, as part of Task 7.1 (see the PlanetData Description of Work [4]). Partners are expected to contact FORTH whenever a change to the site is desired, or for any comments regarding its content and structure. Similarly, partners should inform FORTH staff whenever they have additional material that needs to be added to the web site, such as new publications or presentations. On the other hand, FORTH will also be proactive in requiring the necessary material, e.g., when a deliverable has been submitted but not included in the site. Furthermore, FORTH will be issuing regular reminders for possible new material generated by partners that needs to be uploaded to the site.

5 Conclusion

In this deliverable we briefly described the PlanetData official website [5]. In particular, we presented the main architectural decisions, the site's current (and envisioned future) contents, the site's structure and the related maintenance procedures. This deliverable is aimed as a reference point for the people who want to use or maintain the site, and as a tool for the EC to verify that the project has fulfilled its contractual obligations as related to the web site.

The PlanetData web site is the basic means for disseminating the project's results and activities to people interested in large-scale data management.

As the project progresses, the site is expected to become richer in content, e.g., by the inclusion of new publications, deliverables, training and dissemination activities, news items, new associate partners or key personnel etc. The basic structure is not expected to change in the future, except of course in the unlikely case that we stumble upon new content which does not fit in the current structure.

FORTH is responsible for the addition of new material, as well as for the maintenance and smooth functioning of the site. Cooperation from the PlanetData partners is essential in this respect, as FORTH should be informed as new material relevant to the web site is created.

References

- [1] Grigoris Antoniou, Frank van Harmelen. A Semantic Web Primer. MIT Press. 2008.
- [2] Drupal Open Source CMS. <http://drupal.org>
- [3] Google maps. <http://maps.google.com>
- [4] PlanetData Description of Work. http://planet-data-wiki.sti2.at/index.php/File:PlanetData_DOW,_EC_accepted,_version_19-April-2010.pdf
- [5] PlanetData Web Site: <http://www.planet-data.eu>