Introduction to VuFind

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What It Is

- A customizable, user-friendly web interface for key library functions.
  - Search
  - Account management
- A flexible search engine for finding metadata and full text.
- A front-end for several third-party services (Summon, WorldCat, etc.)

VuFind in Action

VuFind in Action

What It Is Not

- A full Integrated Library System / Library Management System
  - You provide your own ILS/LMS back-end; VuFind pulls data in real-time.
- A source of index data
  - You provide your own data, either by indexing locally or subscribing to a third-party provider

Some Key Features

- Faceted searching
- Alphabetic heading browse
- "More like this" suggestions
- Third-party book covers/reviews
- User tagging/commenting/favorites
- Persistent URLs (for easy bookmarking/linking)
- Alternate theme for mobile devices

Underlying Technologies

- Apache and PHP for front-end web interface
- Solr for searchable index
- MySQL database for persistent data (user accounts, etc.)
- SolrMarc (a Java application) for MARC indexing
- PHP/XSLT command-line tools for non-MARC indexing

System Requirements

- Works on most operating systems (64-bit Linux recommended)
- Exact requirements depend on index size
- More memory = better performance
- Solr is scalable – you can start small and build out as needed.

Installation Process

- Install prerequisites (Apache, PHP, etc.)
- Install VuFind (easiest in Ubuntu using .deb package)
- Configure VuFind (by editing text .ini files)
- Index records (usually using SolrMarc)

Care and Feeding

- Set up automatic processes to keep the index up to date

- Back up database/index as needed

- Keep an eye on performance and adjust Java settings as needed

VuFind 1 vs. VuFind 2

VuFind 1

- PHP 5.2+
- Smarty + PEAR libraries
- Current stable release: VuFind 1.3
- Will be phased out after release 1.4

VuFind 2

- PHP 5.3+
- Zend Framework 2
- Beta code due on October 1, 2012
- Stable release expected during 2013

More Information

- Online Demo: http://vufind.org/demo
- Other Sites Using VuFind: http://vufind.org/wiki/installation_status
- VuFind Documentation: http://vufind.org/wiki/
- VuFind Online Support: http://vufind.org/support.php
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