

Progress Report on the Museum Archive software project web server

I am currently working to finish the page view for all of the categories. When I get them configured and working, the main components of the web server will be complete. I'll still need to add a login screen and a method to specify the port the server should monitor, but that will go quickly. I hope to make version 0.9 available by Labor Day.

The web server is a Windows application that runs on a PC and watches a single port for web page requests. This web server does only one thing – it serves up data from the Museum Archive software database. By running this server, you can let anyone on your local area network (in your library or museum, for example) browse the data. If you do a few simple additional steps, you open up the database to the entire internet. This is both safe and easy to do. It is safe because (1) visitors to the 'web site' can only view the information, they can't make any changes, and (2) because you are not running a 'standard' web server such as Apache or IIS, none of the standard methods of attack will work. It is easy to do: simply install the web server components in a folder with a copy of your database and run the web server exe. You can do this on a spare computer; the software does not take very much horsepower. I'll have more details available on how to set things up and how it all works when I release version 0.9.

Here is a look at the browse:



The screenshot shows a web browser window with an orange header bar containing the text "Museum Archive software project". Below the header, the text "Objects in the collection" is displayed. A table lists various objects with columns for Object Name, Object Date, Gen. Category Name, Category Name, Accession Number, Collection Name, and Status. Each row includes a "Print" button at the far right. Below the table are navigation buttons: "First", "Previous", "Next", and "Last". A "View" button is located below the navigation buttons. At the bottom of the page, a small orange bar contains the text "The Museum Archive software project - © 2010 by Jim Hayes. All Rights Reserved."

Object Name	Object Date	Gen. Category Name	Category Name	Accession Number	Collection Name	Status	
Please Please Me	3/22/1963	Audio	Classic Rock - Audio	2009.1	General Collection	In Collection	Print
With the Beatles	11/22/1963	Audio	Classic Rock - Audio	2009.2	General Collection	In Collection	Print
Old Post Road	1768	Maps	Maps - General	2009.3	Special Collection #1	In Collection	Print
Metuchen Memories	1998	Oral History	Oral History - General	2009.4	Special Collection #1	In Collection	Print
Metuchen Scenes	1950s	Video	Video - General	2009.5	General Collection	In Collection	Print
Abbey Road	9/26/69	Audio	Classic Rock - Audio	2009.6	General Collection	In Collection	Print
Archeology object	circa 10000 BCE	Archeology	Archeology - General	2009.10	General Collection	On Exhibit	Print
Art Object	1999	Art	Art - General	2009.21	General Collection	In Collection	Print
Sample Document object	1940s	Documents	Documents - General	2009.22	General Collection	On Exhibit	Print
Geology Object	4.5 billion years ago	Geology	Geology - General	2009.23	General Collection	On Exhibit	Print

Navigation: [First](#) [Previous](#) [Next](#) [Last](#)

[View](#)

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Objects are listed ten to a page, and you have the standard navigation buttons below the browse list box. Each Object has a Print button at the far right of the row; this button will produce and serve up a PDF file with a copy of the detailed

report for the Object that you currently get from the desktop version of the software.

You can sort the list box by any column by clicking on the column header. If you sort by a column, a Locator entry box appears; this allows you to type in a fragment of a value and jump directly to that spot in the list.

If you highlight an Object, you can click on the View button to see the details for the Object in a multi-tabbed form:



In this example, you are looking at the tabs for an Audio Object.

Here is the Basic Info tab:

Museum Archive software project

View Object

Basic Info Audio Details Notes

Object Name:	<input type="text" value="Please Please Me"/>	Location:	<input type="text" value="Location 1"/>
Description Abstract:	<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; min-height: 60px;">The first album by The Beatles, produced by George Martin</div>	Alternate ID:	<input type="text"/>
Collection Name:	<input type="text" value="General Collection"/>	Category:	<input type="text" value="Classic Rock - Audio"/>
Accession Number:	<input type="text" value="2009.1"/>		
Gen Category:	<input type="text" value="Audio"/>		
Source:	<input type="text" value="Ebay"/>		
Source Category:	<input type="text" value="Purchase"/>		
Accession Date:	<input type="text" value="4/14/2009"/>		
Credit Acknowledgement:	<input type="text"/>		
Approx Object Date:	<input type="text" value="3/22/1963"/>		
Start Year Range:	<input type="text" value="1963"/>	End Year Range:	<input type="text" value="1963"/>

Image:

Here is the Audio Details tab (doesn't have the Track and Instrument information yet):

Museum Archive software project

View Object

Basic Info | **Audio Details** | Notes

Title:

Sub Title:

Genre:

Artist:

Artist Details:

Publisher:

Publisher Details:

Record Label:

Recording Media: **Recording Quality:**

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And finally, here is the Notes tab:



The screenshot shows a web interface for the Museum Archive software project. At the top, there is a header with the text "Museum Archive software pro". Below this, the page is titled "View Object". There are three tabs: "Basic Info", "Audio Details", and "Notes", with "Notes" being the active tab. The main content area displays the text "These are the notes on file for Please Please Me". Below this text is a table with two columns: "Note Date" and "Note Text". The table contains one row with the date "4/14/2009" and the text "Album also available on a CD in the collection.". At the bottom of the main content area, there is a "Close" button with a checkmark icon. The footer of the page contains the text "The Museum Archive software project - (c) 2010 by Jim Halpin. All Rights Reserved."

Note Date	Note Text
4/14/2009	Album also available on a CD in the collection.

This web server will be a great way for you to leverage all of your hard work.

You will be able to customize the 'look and feel' of the web pages by making changes to the included CSS files (cascading style sheets). I'll have more information on that with the next release.

Suggestions are welcome.