

FIRMS software

Progress report



History

➤ requirements

- following the February 2003 FIRMS launch meeting, high-level requirements were drawn up
- following the July 2003 FIRMS technical workshop, a detailed requirements document was begun that has served as a blueprint for application development

process model

- quickly realised we would need to use an incremental model
 - define core products
 - add features as you iterate through the development steps
- use prototyping
 - get real users involved in defining the product
- modularise
 - application was split into manageable pieces

development

➤ analysis

- developers with the help of editors and FIRMS partners developed the data models for the fisheries resources
- a suite of technologies was chosen based on the requirements

➤ design and implementation

- back-end data components and middle-tier business components were specified throughout 2004
- coding began in Spring 2005
- a prototype web site was put up to display observations
- the observation management and editing system presentation layers were begun this September

testing

- the alpha version was released in mid-November and was tested by several team members
- numerous bugs were found and most ironed out in the last few weeks
- testing continues and a stable beta version is just around the corner

release features

➤ Upload module

- XML files & images can be uploaded from the user's computer
- Files are validated and checked against the Reference data to insure they match existing code systems for species and water areas.

➤ Observation management

- Actions subject to user rights
- Files can be moved through a sequence of publishing steps, from draft, to review, to internal, to external publishing
- Files can be deleted and edited

release features cont...

➤ Editing module

- Observations can be opened in the edit module
- Rich-text editing, complete with pasting of tables & other formatted text from documents & spreadsheets
- Image upload
- Modify & add reference data by accessing the reference system
- Add, remove and structure thematic elements according to the schema
- Definitions displayed
- Multi-lingual capabilities built in (just need some translations...)

missing features

- collections / user rights management
- more sophisticated object-based view of observations
- validation of edit actions in the editor
- image repository browsing
- cloning of existing observations
- creation of blank editor-loadable observations
- some legacy services need to be brought into line with the rest of the application

the future

➤ next few weeks:

- updating the legacy services
- source controlling / versioning (housekeeping)
- integrating the dissemination, searching, editing and management onto one server

➤ next few months:

- ironing out the last of the bugs in the alpha version to prepare a stable beta before the February FIRMS meeting
- adding features from the list of missing features