browsers.evolt.org

wee bit of history

current state

future ideas

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wee bit of history

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wee bit of history

- **browser archive** created and maintained on cd-rom by **adrian roselli** (aardvark) to allow him to **test client sites** in as many browsers as possible.

- **evolt.org browser archive** created from adrian's cd archive in **august 1999**.

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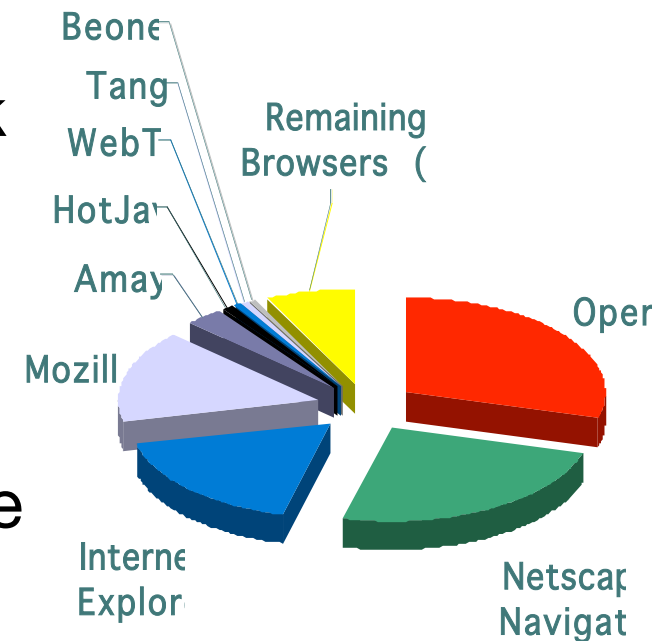current state

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current state

- the archive currently uses **5.9 gigabytes** of disk space on the evolt.org.uk raq4, storing **118 browsers**.

- there are **5 official beo mirrors**: planetmirror in **australia**; flirble.org in the **uk**; gosume.com, webhack.com and fuseware in the **usa**.
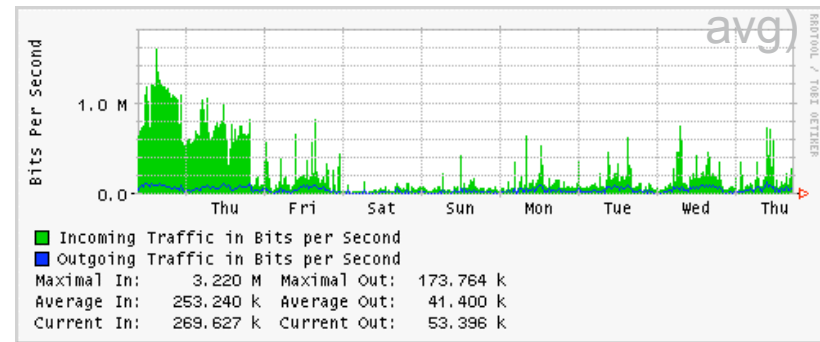

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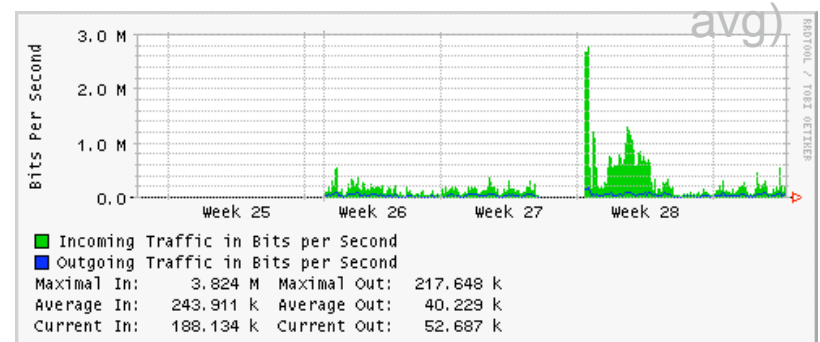evolt.org

browsers.evolt.org current state

- traffic to the raq has been **reduced by aggressive mirroring**.

- this gives the raq **more capability** to perform other tasks: i.e. leo and deo.

weekly bandwidth graph (30 min avg)

monthly bandwidth graph (2 hour avg)

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current state

- pages are generated by a php script which trawls /home/sites/site1/web/browsers for files, and presents a browseable directory listing.

- file download links are generated by a second php script once a file link is clicked upon – this presents the list of mirrors as found in a csv file.

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future ideas

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future ideas

- there are three areas in which the archive can be measurably improved.

- firstly, the presentation layer should be overhauled – the current first page needs to be a lot friendlier and more informative.

- secondly, the structure needs to be placed into a database.

- finally, partial mirroring needs to be enabled.

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future ideas – presentation

- some suggestions for the first page are to restrict the total number of browsers listed, perhaps hiving this information off to a subpage

- rare browsers could be highlighted, and perhaps articles written about them and their history

- structure made easier to navigate and manage

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future ideas – presentation

- a per-browser information page could describe details about the browser, screenshots, links to articles, files in the archive and so on.

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future ideas – database

- archive data could be stored in a manner to allow rapid view switching for the user, i.e. sorting the archive by platform, version, etc.

- by abstracting the data, the archive can be deliberately splintered, allowing curators to manage specific subsections of software.

- the splintered archive approach allows partial mirroring to be performed by mirror hosters.

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future ideas – partial mirroring

- at the moment, those offering to mirror any data from the archive are presented with a stark choice: mirror and serve all 6 gigabytes, or don't.

- a partial mirroring system could allow those with smaller resources to curate or mirror smaller browser sub-archives, such as the rarer browsers, as opposed to larger sub-archives.

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future ideas – partial mirroring

- this system would also allow archives to be completely separated from both the beo filestore, and the filestores of those mirroring the entire archive.

- archives of browsers such as mozilla and opera are well maintained by their owners, and utilising those "out of band" archives would save us valuable resources

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future ideas – discuss

- anything more to add?

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