

# DirectoryDevThumbnails

Some ideas for thumbnails in the directory - needs more thought

From the IRC log:

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mdavey just had a wicked cool idea
mdavey Just updated TikiWikiBestOf with images from thumbshots:
http://open.thumbshots.org/image.pxf?url=http://tiki.org/
mdavey Then I thought: wouldn't it be cool if the Tiki directory could have images of the
links so that the layout
is similar to articles with images
mdavey - using thumbshots URLs to generate the thumbnails. Of course, it would only work for
external sites that are
in dmoz. tw.o and damosoft.co.uk are both there :)
mdavey thinks it /would/ be cool
[...]
mose thinks the thumbshot idea sounds cool
damian yeah I think the thumbnail but having to rely on dmoz could be a issue
mdavey mm. Best to give dirrectory entries an image URL. More flexible - one could
alternatively create a directory
section called "External articles" and use the same images as the internal articles use.
mdavey I'm sure it won't be too long before google offers image snapshots of search results.
mdavey s/image/page/
damian it would be better if we could generate them ourselves as relying on third parties
causes terrible problems, for
example the current situation with external RSS feeds
damian if the external site is having trouble, the tiki die's a death also
[...]
mdavey damian doesn't RSS get cached now?
mdavey perhaps the directory thumbnails could be cached too. They probably don't change that
often.
[...]
damian yeah the problem is to get the data into the cache
mdavey how does the RSS caching work? It would be easy to create an image.php?url=foo script
that either serves up the
proper image or an invisible image (or a 1x1 px image) if the image hasn't been cached yet.
Once it is cached, it is cached.
damian the problem is waiting for a timeout from the remote server
mdavey one could even make sure that dmoz wasn't serving /us/ a blank or 1x1 px image
damian because you cant background process a get
mdavey ah
damian on tikihost.net in the users control panel there are options to do those backgrounds
now as a cronjob to prevent
the tiki site from dieing a death
damian it also handles mail-ins
mdavey are there issues with running such a thing from the command line?
damian not everyone can do cronjobs
[...]
mdavey on tikihost.net - does that work by not using unix cron jobs, or is "not everyone can
do cronjobs" still an issue
[...]
damian nope the fix was to disable the cache :)
```

damian tikihost.net each user can do crons  
burley ok, then that's something I'll be looking into.  
damian and I did some new scripts to stuff the data into the tiki db's  
mdavey so would the way to do this simply be "the same as rss does it"?  
damian rss does it in real time in tikiwiki, if the site your getting the feed from is down,  
your tiki also hangs  
[...]  
damian once you have it cached your ok, until the cache expires in x hours  
mdavey ...the same way as rss does it on tikihosts.net?  
damian with cronjob gets tiki only displays what is in the db and doesnt do the remote site  
getting  
damian so if the remote site is down, it doesnt harm your tiki site  
damian yup rss and mailin are all available as cron services