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Year 2 Deliverable Report D7.2

WP7: Kickoff, Roadmap, Promoting CS Research, Supporting Policy

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WP7: Internet & Information Services for the CS & COSI-ICT Community

Executive Summary

The overall objective of WP7 is the provision of high quality web-based information services and tools

The main event this year for WP7 is the redesign of the Complex Systems Society's web site following it being hacked. This redesign is timely as the Society is reviewing its organisational structure after its first six years of existence.

We are optimistic that this WP7.1 activity will greatly increase the effectiveness of the web site in support of the CSS as a professional society. This activity contributes to the WP7 objectives (1) to provide excellent web-based services for the CS and COSI-ICT community and (4) to provide excellent access to CS & COSI-ICT educational resources for the community. This last objective is particularly important in view of the greatly increased educational activity planned for the forthcoming year.

WP7.1 continues to provide a range of services including the TINA visualization tool, providing for understanding the complex systems community and generating the Who's Who of Complex Systems Science, the My Review conference support system, and improvement of the quality of service on the federation. These contribute to WP7 objectives (2) to coordinate information on CS & COSI-ICT relevant to the community and (3) to provide excellent Internet support for all the ASSYST Work Packages and their activities.

The conventional web site maintained under WP7.2 CSS continues to give excellent service providing website content that includes news, events, publications, and repositories for publications and videos. This year there is a new interactive format for the ASSYST newsletter and some restructuring to make documents more accessible. WP7.2 makes major contributions to WP7 objectives (1) To provide excellent web-based services for the CS and COSI-ICT community, (2) to coordinate information on CS & COSI-ICT relevant to the community, (3) to provide excellent Internet support for all the ASSYST Work Packages and their activities, and (4) to provide excellent access to CS & COSI-ICT educational resources for the community.

The FlashMeeting service provided by WP3 is now well established as a management tool for our monthly management meetings. This contributes to the WP7 objective (3) of providing excellent Internet support for all the ASSYST Work Packages and their activities.

Overall WP7 is achieving the objective of providing high quality web-based information services and tools, and through the redesign of the CSS web site it is preparing for the future when the Society must take over and provide its members with equally high quality services.

1. Objectives of WP7

Objective 7 of ASSYST stated on Page 8 of Annex-1 is given as:

Objective 7. Provision of High Quality Web-based Information Services and Tools

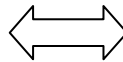
and this is given a more precise interpretation in the WP7 objectives stated on Page 37 of ANNEX-1:

- (1) To provide excellent web-based services for the CS and COSI-ICT community.
- (2) To coordinate information on CS & COSI-ICT relevant to the community.
- (3) To provide excellent Internet support for all the ASSYST Work Packages and their activities.
- (4) To provide excellent access to CS & COSI-ICT educational resources for the community.

as explained in our review report last year, ASSYST has a dual web portal with a conventional web site maintained by our partner in Lisbon and a wiki web site maintained by our partner in Paris.



the ASSYST conventional website (FFC-UL)



the ASSYST wiki website (CNRS)

Our experience is that the conventional web site is providing excellent service in terms of our objectives, but there have been problems with the wiki-based site. A meeting was held in Paris in January 2011 to address this and work is under way to rectify the situation, as will be explained.

2. WP7 Deliverables and milestones for the period

The deliverable for the period is D7.2, this report.

The milestones for WP7 are:

- | | |
|---|---------|
| M7.1 ASSYST-CSS web site opened | Month 1 |
| M7.2 Face-to-Face Management Meeting | Month 1 |
| M7.3 First Videoconference Management Meeting | Month 2 |
| M7.4 FlashMeeting available to all ASSYST members | Month 3 |
| M7.5 ASSYST is supporting an excellent CSS web site | Month 6 |

These were passed last year. However a problem has arisen regarding M7.5 triggered by the wiki site being hacked and damaged as will be discussed.

As well as the reviewing the milestone, this document will report the provision of Internet & Information Services for the CS & COSI-ICT Community evaluated against the objectives stated above.

3. WP7 progress and achievements during the period

WP7.1 WIKI web infrastructure & IT tools

Leader: Bourguine (CNRS).

Annex-1 describes WP7.1 as follows:

ONCE-CS created WIKI web infrastructure for the Complex Systems Society which enables members of the community to create their own sub-sites for CS special interest groups. The CSS uses this infrastructure for its web site to deliver information and web services, such as the open-source MyReview conference administration system that was used for ECCS'06 and ECCS'07. WP7.1 will develop and support this infrastructure through an engineer based at the *Institut des Systèmes Complex Paris et Ile de France*. ICS-PIF funders provide matching funds for staff, so that ASSYST provides half funding for the engineer and ICS-PIF provides the other half, giving excellent leverage on the ASSYST funds.

The engineer will be expected to adapt the Wiki site to enable user communities to create their own archives of programs and data according to their group needs.

More generally, ASSYST will provide a service to document programs and data and where appropriate to store programs, data and research resources on its web site.

and the objectives of this work packages are expressed as

- Wiki-based communication between members of the CS & COSI-ICT research community
- MyReview and other software for supporting conferences and journals.

The ASSYST objectives relevant to WP7.1 are

- (1) To provide excellent web-based services for the CS and COSI-ICT community.
- (4) To provide excellent access to CS & COSI-ICT educational resources for the community.

Redesigning the Complex Systems Society Web Site.

In November 2010 it was noticed that the Complex Systems Society web site had been hacked and on some pages there were advertisements and other extraneous text. As this was investigated it became clear that the site is not being maintained in a pro-active way, and that this gives a very poor impression of the Society.

Maintaining the Society's web site is the responsibility of the Society rather than ASSYST, but ASSYST has to take the longer view that when the project ends it has to hand over excellent facilities to enable the Society to maintain a professional website.

Related to this it is clear that the Society does not use the wiki site as was expected, and there is very little engagement with the site by either the Society or the complex systems community it represents.

On the side of the Society, the problem of the site being hacked was discussed at its monthly management meeting in December 2010. At the Society's January meeting it was decided that the web site is so central to the activities of a professional society that it should invest some of its resource employing a professional web developer to analyse the problem and implement a solution. Jorge Louçã suggested that Lisbon-based Manuel Tânger would be suitable for this task. Since the ASSYST leaders responsible for the IT infrastructure are also

actively engaged in the Society¹ we held a joint CSS-ASSYST meeting to discuss the problem and brief Manuel in Paris in January 2011.

Underlying any changes is the nature of our dual platform web portal, and the question as to whether this contributes to the problem. For example, the question can be asked whether the portal should be a entirely conventional web site or entirely a wiki-based site. Before addressing this question, let us consider Wikipedia.

Wikipedia is probably one of the most used web sites on the web. For most of its users it looks and feels like a conventional web site. To them the fact that it is a wiki site has no impact. On the other hand for a much smaller number of people the wiki properties allow them to interact with the site, creating new content which has high value to themselves and other users. The obvious point here is that the problems being experienced by the Society are not necessarily caused by its web site being implemented on a wiki platform. Related to this is the fact that the wiki approach is essential to allow the kind of engagement and creativity seen with Wikipedia. We can conclude from this that the problems the Society has experienced are not technical problems *per se*, but are human problems relating to the design of the system and how it is used.

During the meeting in Paris it became clear that the redesign of the Society's web portal was in fact a redesign of the Society. The officers of the Society are aware that after six year in existence such a review is timely and the brief to the ASSYST team is not just to put in place IT infrastructure to support a professional society, but to advise the Society on its organisational structure so that it can use that infrastructure in a sustainable way. Our objective is to have a Wikipedia-like web site that is accessible and intuitive for the naïve user, with working wiki capabilities available to those who want to use them.

Thus a new design of the CSS website is being prepared by Manuel Tânger, working closely with Jeff Johnson, in connection with the Lisbon and Paris teams. The new design will have an innovative graphical presentation, reorganization and update of all contents. An important feature of this new design will be including the ASSYST Digital Library in the new CSS website. The proposal for a new design has been presented to the Society and is under discussion by its Executive Committee.

This redesign takes into account developments at the Institute for Complex Systems in Paris where a new version of the Tiki-Wiki software library is being developed. This will provide the CSS user with more complete and higher performance software tool to enable CSS members to compose their own web page.

This activity addresses the objectives of WP7 as follows:

(1) To provide excellent web-based services for the CS and COSI-ICT community.

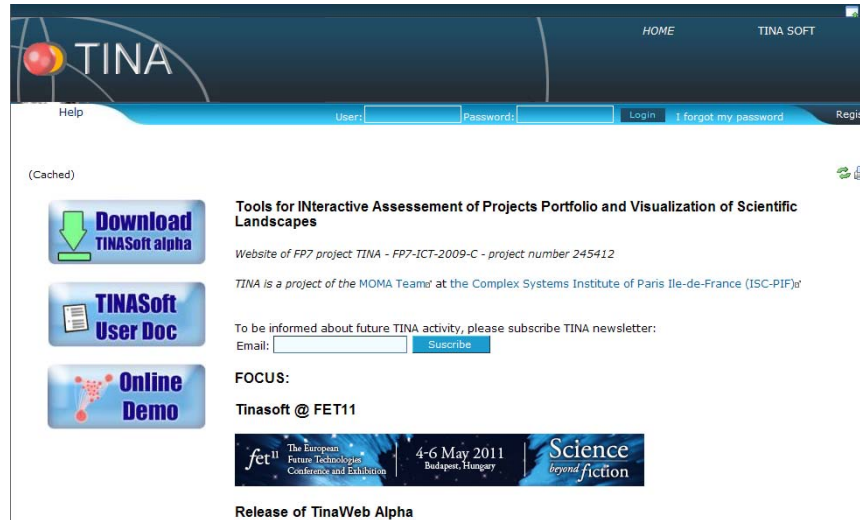
Most of the needs of the CS and COSI-ICT community are very well served by the conventional ASSYST web site. The need for a wiki-based site to support the CSS as professional society are not being met. We have interpreted this as a design and organisational problem rather than it being a technical problem, and this is how it is being addressed. We expect the solution to impact on the way the Society is run which we believe will be greatly improved, and enable it to provide a much better service for the complex systems community.

(4) To provide excellent access to CS & COSI-ICT educational resources for the community.

ASSYST is moving into a major new phase in its educational programme through the étoile project. The redesign of the CSS web site is timely because in the longer term when ASSYST and étoile have ended the Society must be capable of providing excellent web-based educational services. The redevelopment of the Society's website by ASSYST is therefore very positive.

¹ From ASSYST, Jeffery Johnson is CSS President, David Chavalaris is a Vice-President, Mina Teicher is a Vice-President, Paul Bourguine is a former-president, and Jorge Louca, Yasmin Merali, Markus Kirkilionis and David Hales are Executive Committee members.

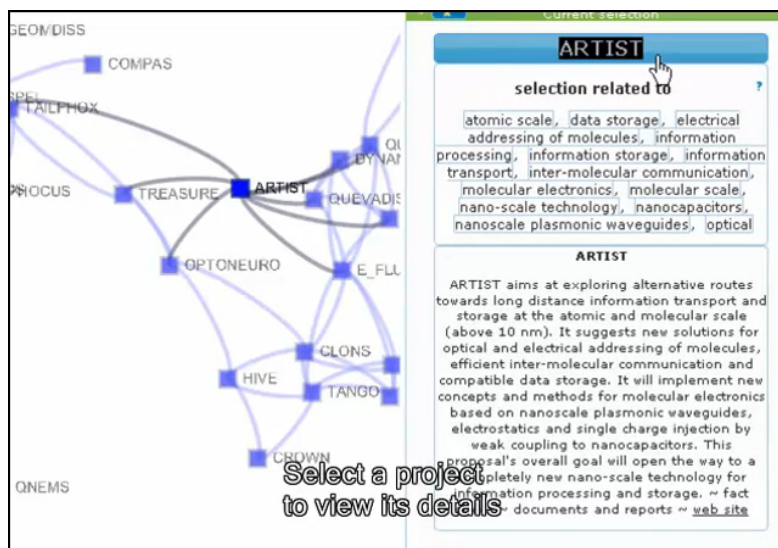
Tools for understanding the complex systems community



ASSYST is working with the TINA project, which has the following rationale

Today science managers are facing a real challenge when coping with the increasingly changing nature of science. First the millions of papers published every year clearly make it impossible for anybody to have an exhaustive knowledge of all the important breakthroughs in every field. Second, science frontiers are ever faster changing and getting blurred as fields and sub-fields are cross-fertilizing, growing or dying.

The problem of evaluation of proposals in a science management perspective is strongly related to the difficulty to assess its scientific context and its originality compared to other proposals. We propose here to use the textual information associated with every project to extract knowledge about the proposal's scientific content. This data will be used to locate projects in the dual spaces made of both, the whole set of proposals within a batch (or a series of batches), and the scientific landscape specific to this batch. The objectives of this support action is to apply new tools from scientometrics, network analysis and information visualization to portfolio analysis of proposals and science monitoring.



The TINA system allows scholars to browse the network structures of science, such as the relationships between people, institutions, projects, and the scientific literature. David Chavalarias of ASSYST is a leader on the TINA project.

A movie on TINA can be found on <http://vimeo.com/13203336>

<http://tinasoftware.eu/>

Data on the Complex Systems Community and Who's Who

Complex Systems Society

HOME ABOUT CSS COMMITTEES COMMUNITY HELP

Find [] in Entire Site

Help User: [] Password: [] Login

[Who's who home](#) | [Socio-semantic browser](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Forthcoming edition](#) | [Members](#)

Who's who project

To appear in the who's who, [Update your profile](#)

Participants :

- [David Chavalarias](#)
- [Frederic Amblard](#)

This project aims at a regular edition of a who's who in complex systems. The first issues has already been downloaded more than 7000 times ! To foster collaborations within the complex systems community, the Who's Who Issue IV will be accompanied by an online browser of the bipartite graph generated from scholars names and their keywords.

The who's who is edited twice a year. The online browser is updated each month.

[Download the who's who Issue VI Spring 2010.](#)

Forthcoming improvements

- Append a who's who of the institutions to the who's who of scholars using the [list of CS organizations](#)
- Addition of an online browser of the bipartite graph generated from scholars names and their keywords. Keywords will be taken from the keywords field in the scholar's profile. Here are few snapshots :

neighborhood of a scholar

neighborhood of a keyword

The Complex Systems Society has interesting data on its members. Data are collected in several repositories that contain inventories of the different categories of actors: Scholars (scholars.csregistry.org): 2136 scholars registered with a detailed profile (+230 since the beginning of ASSYST); Institutions (organisations.csregistry.org): More than 200 institutions (Labs and organisations have been registered on the federation

These data are used to publish twice a year the Complex Systems Who's Who that gives a picture of the Complex Systems Landscape. The last edition: *Issue VI Spring 2010*, can be downloaded from <http://whoswho.cssociety.org>

My Review Conference Support

WP7.1 maintains the MyReview conference support system used for ECCS. The MyReview system running in Paris, which allowed people to submit their papers according to the Track they choose. This was a very positive experiment and is being followed by the ECCS'10 conference setup, where the ECCS'10 conference link (Figure 10) can be accessed through the conventional ASSYST web site, allowing to enter in the ECCS'10 MyReview system running in Lisbon.



Welcome to the main conference website

The ECCS'10 European Conference on Complex Systems will be held in Lisbon, Portugal, an organization of the **Complex Systems Society**.

ECCS'10 will be located at the Lisbon University Institute, from the 13th to 17th September, 2010. The main conference tracks will be presented on the 13th, 14th and 17th September and the Satellite Meetings will occur on the 15th and 16th September, 2010.

Main Conference Tracks:

Track A: Policy, Planning & Infrastructure
Policymaking; Design Processes; Environmental Decision Making; Management; Construction and Manufacturing; Energy and Sustainability; Urban Planning; Built Environment; Internet; Transport & Power Networks; Medical & Health Systems.

Track B: Collective Human Behaviour and Society
Philosophy of Science; Economics & Finance; Sociology; Psychology; Game theory.

Track C: Interacting Populations and Environment
Climate Change; Geography; Pollution; Demography; Ecology; Epidemiology.

Track D: Complexity and Computer Science
Natural and Pervasive Computing; Global Computing Infrastructure; Swarms and Robot Teams; Mobile and Fleet Computing; Graphs and Neural Networks; Language and Cognition; Collaborative Human Computer Networks.

Track E: From Molecules to Living Systems
Self-assembly & Self-organisation; Biochemistry, Cell Biology, Neuroscience; Systems Biology; Medicine & Physiology.

Track F: Mathematics and Simulation
Mathematics; Theoretical Physics; Modelling; Theory of Simulation (both numerical mathematics and agent based); Network Theory.

News

- [On-line registration is now open](#)
- [Call for Papers](#)
- [Extended deadline for paper submission](#)
- [Publications: Advances in Complex Systems](#)
- [Publications: The European Physical Journal B](#)
- [Publications: Agent based modelling](#)
- [ASSYST Bursaries](#)
- [Publications: From Molecules to Living Systems](#)
- [Publications: Philosophy of Science](#)
- [Templates](#)

ECCS'10

- [Homepage](#)
- [Call for Papers](#)
- [Important dates](#)
- [Submissions to the main conference](#)
- [Publications](#)
- [Satellite Meetings](#)
- [Organisation and committees](#)
- [Forum](#)
- [Registration and fees](#)
- [Bursaries](#)
- [For organisers](#)
- [Contact](#)

Previous ECCS

- [ECCS'09 Warwick](#)
- [ECCS'08 Jerusalem](#)
- [ECCS'07 Dresden](#)
- [ECCS'06 Oxford](#)
- [ECCS'05 Paris](#)
- [ECCS'04 Torino](#)

Improvement of the Quality of Service on the Federation

As mentioned previously, a new version of the Tiki-Wiki software library is being developed in Paris to provide a more complete and better performing software tool enabling CSS members to create their own web pages.

WP7.2 CSS web site content: news, events, and publications

New interactive format for the ASSYST Newsletter

The ASSYST conventional web site continues to provide excellent support for ASSYST and the COSI-ICT community and is subject to constant innovation and improvement.

Recently a facility was introduced to allow the ASSYST documents to be read comfortable on-screen on-line.



The ASSYST newsletter has a new interactive format, allowing on-line reading and interaction with the user.

This facility uses a page-turning metaphor instead of the usual up-down scrolling used when reading documents on-screen.

It is available to read the newsletter from the home page of the site for reading the newsletter, as shown below.

See also <http://www.assystcomplexity.eu>

View in fullscreen



Documentation re-organisation

A new document link has been put on the ASSYST home page and the documentation reorganized and made available at the ASSYST website. This includes

[ASSYST - The CSS Roadmap for the Science of Complex Systems - 2009](#),
[Complex Systems Science - Expert Consultation report - December 2009](#), and
<http://www.assystcomplexity.eu/reports.jsp>

ASSYST Digital Library

The ASSYST Digital Library continues to be extended by new videos from a variety of meetings and conferences, including a good report on the ECCS'10 – European Conference on Complex Systems, held in Lisbon during September 2010. The smaller meetings supported by ASSYST are also available on-line. The ASSYST Digital Library included 184 videos by the end of 2010.

<http://www.assystcomplexity.eu/video.jsp>

Video Streaming

The plenary talks at ECCS'10 – European Conference on Complex Systems, held in Lisbon during September 2010, were streamed in real-time during the event, using the ASSYST website infrastructure, allowing a global impact of the most important communication to the conference.

WP7.3 ASSYST meeting coordination, information & publication

Leader: Jane Bromley (OU)

This work package is defined in ANNEX-1 as

It is intended to make extensive use of videoconferencing to administer ASSYST, including the monthly meetings of the Management Committee. This work package allows an average of one day a week for an administrator to arrange and manage the meetings using the web-based FlashMeeting system, and to provide support for this videoconferencing system for other ASSYST users. The administrator will be the key person for ASSYST, providing a synthesis of all information about the project and publishing it on the web site in an accessible way.



FlashMeeting is now firmly established as a management tool for ASSYST. It is used monthly to review progress and discuss future activities. We find it easy to use, and being browser-based it can be used anywhere there is an internet connection, including a beach café during a holiday.

4. Summary

The overall objective of WP7 is the provision of high quality web-based information services and tools

The main event this year for WP7 is the redesign of the Complex Systems Society's web site following it being hacked. This is timely as the Society is reviewing its organisational structure after its first six years of existence. We are optimistic that this WP7.1 activity will greatly increase the effectiveness of the web site in support of CSS as a professional society. This activity contributes to the WP7 objectives (1) To provide excellent web-based services for the CS and COSI-ICT community and (4) To provide excellent access to CS & COSI-ICT educational resources for the community. This last objective is particularly important in view of the greatly increased educational activity planned for the forthcoming year.

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