Using the Allura Platform to Create Your Own Forge
Rick Copeland, Software Architect
SourceForge.net

Overview

In late 2009 SourceForge embarked on a plan to “reboot” our developer tools on an open platform including Python, MongoDB, RedisDB, and SOLR. The result was the Allura platform, and was released under the Apache License in February 2011.

Our main goal for the Allura project was to build a platform that would provide community needed services for various developer tools (Wiki, Tracker, Repository, Forums, etc.) that are installed in various projects. Project admins should be able to customize the set of tools installed for their project and have fine grained control over access rights in their project.

The resulting project, self-hosted at [http://sf.net/p/allura](http://sf.net/p/allura), provides users wanting to build their own forge with project adminstration, full-text search, ticket tracking, wiki, forums, repository management (Git, Subversion, and Mercurial included), along with a solid platform for building your own custom tools that can be installed alongside the native tools provided by Allura.

Built-in Tools

- Built-in tools like Markdown-based wiki, forums, tracker, repositories are included in the platform.
- Tools like Git, Hg, SVN are also available.
- AMQP, RabbitMQ, and SOLR are included for building custom tools.

Custom Tools

- Custom tools can be written using a variety of languages and frameworks.
- Examples include Python, MongoDB, RedisDB, and SOLR.
- Custom tools can be installed alongside the native tools provided by Allura.

Platform Services

- All artifacts automatically indexed in Solr and searchable.
- Markdown rendering with automatic cross-referencing between artifacts.
- Thraded discussions with email integration.
- Flexible email notifications and subscriptions.
- RSS and Atom feeds.
- Role-based permissions admin.
- Fine-grained per-artifact ACLs.
- Server-side OAuth 1.0.

Asynchronous Processing

- Much of Allura’s processing happens asynchronously via RabbitMQ in a long-running reactor process.
- RabbitMQ integration allows for asynchronous processing.
- MongoDB provides the data store for these processes.
- Solr provides full-text searching.
- Automatic cross-linking.
- Email Integration.

Contributing

- Feedback (suggestions, bugs, tool ideas) always welcome.
- Fork our repo, hack away, and request merge.
- Contact: rick@geek.net

Contact and URL

[http://sf.net/p/allura](http://sf.net/p/allura)