

# eComStationNews.com

Rebirth of a News Agency for OS/2 and eComStation

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# Outline

## Past Situation

- History
- Remedy

## Project History

- Technical
- Content
- Setbacks

## Rebirth

- Reconsideration
- Technical
- User frontend
- Editor backend

## Future

- Plans
- Contributions and Sponsoring



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# Situation

## News situation

- ▶ News are not reported to every news service
- ▶ Service providers do not search other services for missing news
- ▶ Users do not read all news services

## Reasons

- ▶ Time constraints
- ▶ Language barrier
- ▶ Lack of man-power



# Results

## Corollary

- ▶ *Low quality of news services*
- ▶ *Loss of information*
- ▶ *No feedback for developers*

## D'oh!

- ▶ Users leave the platform
- ▶ Developers stop development



# Remedy

## Theorem (Solution)

- ▶ *Create central news source*
- ▶ *Create central reporting point*
- ▶ *Provide same information to all*

## Counter:

- ▶ Island community effect
- ▶ Language barrier
- ▶ Time constraints (synergy)
- ▶ Lack of man-power (synergy)



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# Technical

- ▶ Hosted on OS/2 server of Mensys B.V.
- ▶ PHP, MySQL
- ▶ Code written by Robert Henschel and Joachim Benjamins
- ▶ Support for several languages
- ▶ News can be retrieved via customizable RSS feeds





# Content

- ▶ Fed by VOICE News mailing list, submission form
- ▶ Import from OS/2 World.com possible
- ▶ Retrieved by
  - ▶ OS2.org
  - ▶ OS/2 User Group Dresden
  - ▶ Bay Area User Group
- ▶ No content given in return



# Setbacks

## News services

- ▶ Concerns regarding
  - ▶ Monopolization of information
  - ▶ Censorship, conflict of interest
- ▶ News agency seen as competitor
- ▶ Competitiveness

## D'oh!

- ▶ News services did not join
- ▶ No content in return



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# Reconsideration

## Situation

- ▶ Agency still needed
- ▶ Concerns

## Decision

- ▶ Migrate elsewhere
- ▶ Hand over to independent group
- ▶ Sponsoring of development



# Technical

- ▶ Hosted on warpevents.eu Unix server
- ▶ Maintained by warpevents.eu
- ▶ No administrative access by Mensys B.V.
- ▶ TYPO3 CMS
  - ▶ Open Source
  - ▶ user administration with access rights
  - ▶ logging
  - ▶ versioning
  - ▶ translation facilities
  - ▶ workflow support
- ▶ RSS feeds as XHTML or plain text
- ▶ RSS feeds for all supported languages



# User frontend

- ▶ Multi-language site
- ▶ Submission form
- ▶ Automatic filling in of data for registered users
- ▶ User base shared with warpevents.eu and warpstock.eu
- ▶ Rich text editing without XHTML knowledge



# Editor backend

- ▶ Trimmed down user-interface
- ▶ Rich text editing without XHTML knowledge
- ▶ Translation facilities
- ▶ Workflow support



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# Plans

- ▶ Improve language support for news reporting
- ▶ Get more partners that participate in the system

## Tit for tat

- ▶ Full participation required
- ▶ RSS feeds only available if reported news redirected to news agency



# Contributions and Sponsoring

## Contributions required!

We provide the infrastructure. Somebody else has to put it to use!

- ▶ News editor
- ▶ Translator

## Sponsoring very welcome!

Ensures:

- ▶ Hosting and maintenance
- ▶ Ongoing development



# The End

## Open discussion

An open discussion about the future of Warpstock Europe will take place on Saturday evening starting at 17:30. Please take the time to participate. Your input is needed!

Thank you for your attention.

