Experiences of using SPMS for APAC 2007

By

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- **SPMS server –** Application server and database server (http://oraweb.cern.ch/pls/apac07/).

- **File server –** File server was configured at RRCAT, Indore (apac07.cat.ernet.in). Files were kept on local file server for faster access during editing work.

SPMS package installation at RRCAT - an experience

- SPMS package was configured at our site and first time abstract submissions were done using this setup. Initially it was working fine. Subsequently due to some patch requirement of Oracle, SPMS configuration at RRCAT stopped functioning.
- It was decided to get SPMS instance running at CERN site for APAC07.
- John and Christine were very helpful for providing SPMS instance of APAC07 on CERN server.
- File server for APAC07 was installed at RRCAT for faster access to the paper files.
- Matt helped relentlessly for setting up SPMS instance for APAC07 at CERN server.
- He helped in migration of SPMS data from SPMS at RRACT to SPMS instance on CERN server.

Good points about running SPMS

- Various Reports provided in SPMS are useful.
- Mail generation tool is good for handling communication to authors.
- Statistics tool is good, which helps in analyzing paper processing status etc.
- Easy configuration of SPMS software is an asset.
- Fairly good documentation.

Some suggestions for software enhancement

- Activity log gets removed after withdrawing a contribution. Activity log should be made available if restoring is done.
- Whenever we search for an author through search option given in software, it displays list of authors. On the same page <Add author/profile> button appears at the bottom of the page. We feel that it should also appear at the top for adding authors/profiles. As the list is sometimes long and one needs to scroll down till the end of the list to press <Add author/profile>.
- Total count of search result should appear both at the top and bottom of the page.
- While searching for a paper/ contribution with administrator role, left window displays status like Required QA, Editor, Final QA, Publishable etc. With these status indictors, indicators for author and co-author registration status (registration done/ not done) should also be shown.
- Currently software provides option of email generation for primary authors. We suggest that email generation for co-authors should also be provided. This will result in faster response from the authors.

Some suggestions for software enhancement Contd…

- As of now author submits paper with authors list. Later on it needs lot of checking about author's affiliation, format of author list etc. To reduce this time, we feel that authors should submit source file of their paper without author list. And at the time of paper submission itself they should enter the names (and affiliations) of all the authors in the database. Later the author list should get inserted into final paper file through system automatically with proper formatting. This will reduce a lot of burden on editors and conference editors. This idea clicked to us, because while running great Wolker Schaa scripts we realized that lot of information is inserted by scripts in the pdf files of papers – like page number, key-words etc. This idea may be difficult to implement but definitely not impossible. This will also facilitate up-to-date profile database in spms.
- Module based on E-conference concept should be added for 'Distant web based participation' for those participants who are not able to travel to the host country.

Some of the problems faced by us

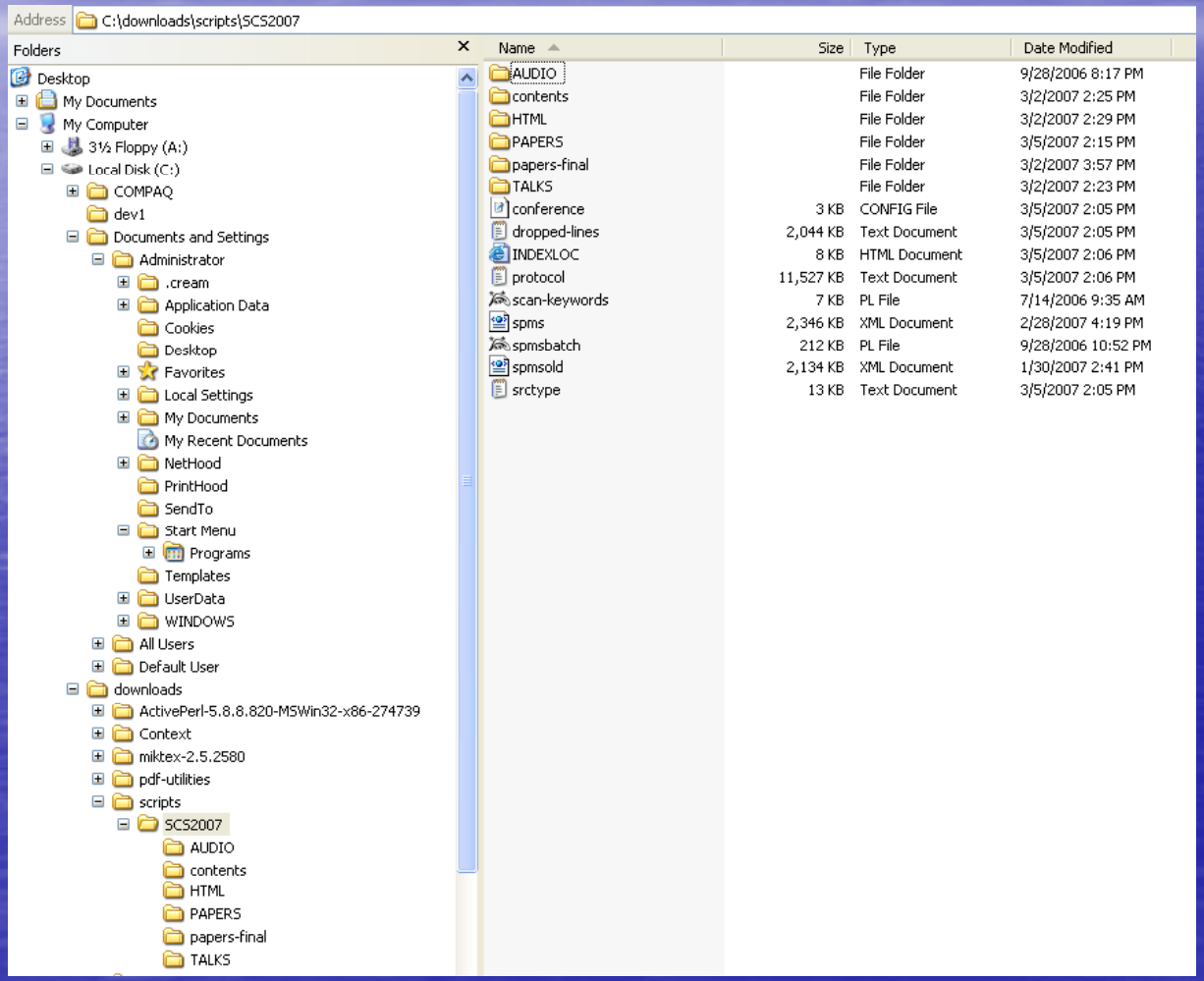
- After preparation of toc.htm of APAC07 for pre-press version, the behavior of http://oraweb.cern.ch/pls/apac07_debug/toc.htm was strange. In a fresh browser (no login active) the page displays and the left frame fills with the data (Session Id and title) but immediately it re-routed to the login page in left frame. The problem was notified to Matt by John. Matt looked into matter and fixed the bug. Now pre-press version is functioning properly.
- Statistics generated by the SPMS package: sometimes there is discrepancy in the total counts of papers, like count for assignable and assigned papers, OS platform wise breakup of the papers and total assigned papers.

Towards final version of proceedings

1. For final version of proceedings we have taken dump from SPMS server named spms.xml.
2. We are following JACoW Proceedings scripts (version 4.3) document for preparation of proceeding.
3. As per document we have installed all required software packages mentioned in section 2.

Towards final version of proceedings Contd...

4. Our directory structure is as follows -



Settings in conference.config file are changed as per requirement.

Towards final version of proceedings Contd...

5. We are executing scripts as mentioned in section 3.

Step2-1: Took the spms.xml dump from spms server. spmsbatch.pl is executed in SCS2007 directory as conference.config is in this directory. It generates latex documents of each paper and gen_texpdf.bat in ./papers directory. It also generates INDEXLOC.html, protocol.text, dropped-lines.text, srctype.text files in SCS2007 directory.

Step2- 2: Downloaded all pdf files of edited papers (from spms) in ./papers-final directory.

Step 2-3: Executed scan-keywords.pl in ./papers-final directory. It writes <paper_code>.pdf, <paper_code>.txt and keyword-count.txt files in same directory.

Towards final version of proceedings Contd...

Step 2-4: Generated TOC values as per section 3.7.

Step 2-5: spmsbatch.pl is executed in SCS2007 directory and not from ./papers-final directory as conference.config is kept there. It writes INDEXLOC.html, protocol.text, scrtype.text, dropped-lines.text in SCS2007 directory. Writes gen_texpdf.bat and <paper_code>.tex files in ./PAPERS directory.

Step 2-6: Executed gen_texpdf.bat in ./PAPERS directory. It writes proceedings.pdf and proceedings-pages1.pdf. **But it does not write abstract.pdf.** Why?

Towards final version of proceedings Contd…

We are able to get following links.

Home | Session Index | Classification Index | Authors Index | Keyword Index | List of Institutes

We are facing following problems-

1) We have downloaded few photographs and kept in ./contents directory for testing Conference Photographs link but unable to get link for photographs on generated website. What could be the reason? How to rectify it? Is there any need of photograph uploading on SPMS server? If yes then how to upload photographs in spms?

Towards final version of proceedings Contd...

2) Similarly, when we followed the steps mentioned in section 4.2 (Production of Abstract Booklet), following files are generated in ./PAPERS directory-

   abstract-base.tui, abstract-base.text, abstract-base.pdf, abstract-base-mpgraph.text, abstract-mpgraph.1, abstract.mp, abstract.mpb, abstract.mpo file.

   Its compilation stops with similar errors mentioned in section 7.3 and abstract.pdf file is not made. How do we get abstract.pdf?

3) Before preparing spms.xml dump we have added names in Programme Committee and Local Organizing Committee. Similarly Participants list is also up-to-date on SPMS database. But we are not able to get link for the same on generated websites. What could be the reason?

Towards final version of proceedings Contd…

- We are almost ready with the final version of proceedings except 16 invited orals and posters.
- We would like to rectify problems being faced by us as mentioned in point 5 of ‘Towards final version of proceedings’ i.e. problem related to generation of abstract.pdf.
- Kindly suggest how to get the Participants list, details of Programme Committee and Local Organising Committee for final proceedings.

The overall experience of using SPMS has been wonderful !

Thank you !