

Gallery Image Management System Overview

Mississippi State University Extension Service

Background

Spurred by the need of the Office of Agricultural Communications (OAC) to store, catalog, and quickly retrieve a multitude of visual images in digital form, Computer Applications & Services (CAS) has installed a web-based image database called Gallery.

Gallery allows OAC photographers to upload images to an Extension server, where they are available online to those who need them for the many communication products OAC develops. It contains albums of digital images spanning several years. Some scans even predate the switch to digital photography.

Hardware

2U Antec server case with a 450w power supply
3.2Ghz P4 with 2GB RAM
4 750GB 7200RPM SATA drives for data (2 striped pairs mirrored to each other)
2 80GB 7200RPM SATA drives for operating system

At the time, this hardware configuration gave us a very good “bang for the buck” system for under \$2,000. The most expensive item was a \$500 backup client from Veritas. That put our total price right under \$2,500 for the entire system.

Software

Fedora Core 5 - <http://fedoraproject.org>
XAMPP - <http://www.apachefriends.org/en/xampp.html>
Gallery 2 - <http://gallery.menalto.com>
Veritas NetBackup – <http://www.veritas.com> (now owned by Symantec)
Drupal - <http://drupal.org>

We installed the freely available Fedora Core 5 as the operating system for our server. Gallery can be installed on Windows, however Apache should still be used as the web server. IIS has been made to work, but Gallery does have certain limitations when used with it rather than Apache.

Gallery is dependent upon several other server side systems in order to operate properly. That is where the XAMPP project comes in. The Linux package of XAMPP provides a “one stop shopping and install” of Apache, MySQL, PHP & PEAR, Perl, ProFTPD, phpMyAdmin, OpenSSL, GD, Freetype2, libjpeg, libpng, gdbm, zlib, expat, Sablotron, libxml, Ming, Webalizer, pdf class, ncurses, mod_perl, FreeTDS, gettext, mcrypt, mhash, eAccelerator, SQLite and IMAP C-Client. You may not need all of these items for your particular Gallery install, but it is easy to disable those that you don’t need.

Once the system has been prepared, you can then install Gallery 2. Please note that Gallery has two separate versions. Gallery 1 is the older and more “static” of the two. Gallery 2 uses current database standards. Gallery 2 is suggested over Gallery 1 in almost all cases. We went with the “Full” install rather than the “Typical” or “Minimal”. It is much easier to disable the features you do not want rather than try to add one later on.

Another software related item to mention is Drupal. Drupal is an open source content management system. Gallery meshes into Drupal very easily if that type of system is needed. The Gallery developer site actually uses Drupal if you want an idea of how it looks.