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## Greetings! New designer/engineer aboard!

Posted by bstaats - 2008/04/24 14:43

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Hello and greetings fellow LS goers!

I am the new UI designer / engineer for LS2. For the past month I have been working with Juhan and others to continually evolve LS2 UI designs and prototypes. You can see the latest (and previous) designs at <http://design.limesurvey.org> where we will be continually updating the site with the latest work.

We highly encourage everyone to frequent the updated [design.limesurvey.org](http://design.limesurvey.org) and send comments, questions, or hate mail ([design-feedback@limesurvey.org](mailto:design-feedback@limesurvey.org)). The designs start out basic and will gradually become more sophisticated over time as features and feedback are added. With everyone's eyes we can create an outstanding user experience for LS2.

Happy to be aboard  
Brian

Whats your input?  
[design-feedback@limesurvey.org](mailto:design-feedback@limesurvey.org)

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## Re:Greetings! New designer/engineer aboard!

Posted by Mazi - 2008/04/24 16:11

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Great work so far!

One question: In which way do you treat accessibility? I think you use a lot of ajax features but what if users have disabled javascript? What's your general accessibility approach?

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## Re:Greetings! New designer/engineer aboard!

Posted by bstaats - 2008/04/24 16:56

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Thanks Mazi,

LS2 extensively uses the Dojo Javascript toolkit which has considerations for accessibility. See Dojo's strategy for more information.

A non-JS degraded interface could be supported for ultra simple (micro) surveys, but this feature is far down the list of requirements.

We feel Dojo's accessibility approach is sufficient to address the majority of accessibility issues. We can beef this up in the future if needed.

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## Re:Greetings! New designer/engineer aboard!

Posted by Mazi - 2008/04/24 17:57

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Thanks a lot for this additional information!

But as I can see you won't be able to use LS2.0 if you have JS turned off, will you?  
Probably there won't be any workarounds either because LS2.0 is deeply connected to the dojo toolkit?!

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## Re:Greetings! New designer/engineer aboard!

Posted by Mazi - 2008/04/28 09:55

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Brian?

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## Re:Greetings! New designer/engineer aboard!

Posted by bstaats - 2008/04/28 14:11

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You are correct. However, this would be an exception not the rule and in the case of this exception, as I mentioned, a degraded (non-javascript) interface could be supported.

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## Re:Greetings! New designer/engineer aboard!

Posted by Mazi - 2008/04/28 15:02

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bstaats wrote:

... a degraded (non-javascript) interface could be supported.

Wouldn't this require a huge effort?

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## Re:Greetings! New designer/engineer aboard!

Posted by bstaats - 2008/04/28 15:28

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Define "huge effort". The effort involved would be determined on its intended audience / purpose.

Who is this non-javascript audience?

Can you give a reasonable example where it would be desirable to turn off javascript?

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## Re:Greetings! New designer/engineer aboard!

Posted by Mazi - 2008/04/30 17:24

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bstaats wrote:

Who is this non-javascript audience?

I hope I can make clear why a working version with java is essential.

Our company wants to use limesurvey as a tool for lecture evaluation. Therefore we will create a webservice interface for LS2.0 (I have talked to Juhan about this some weeks ago) to connect limesurvey to our highschool management software.

The problem is that German law says that public institutions (like universities) have to make their information accessible for handicapped people and because our company is owned by the German government we have very strict guidelines to make our software accessible. This includes that every interface has to be usable with javascript turned off.

Of course the normal user won't have javascript turned off but it's a requirement that we can offer alternatives for each javascript action. That's why we rely on a non-javascript interface at the client side.

I hope our problem is comprehensible. If not, just ask.

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## Re:Greetings! New designer/engineer aboard!

Posted by bstaats - 2008/04/30 17:50

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Ok, now I am officially confused. :)

1. A web service interface is not a end user graphical interface. A web service interface is like RPC or SOA. Thus, javascript has no relevance.

2. If you are talking about an end user browser-based graphical interface, then are you talking about turning Java off or Javascript off in the browser?

3. Projects that are funded by the US government are also mandated to be accessible and proper use javascript (javascript turned on) does not disrupt this mandate. Especially given our use of Dojo, which has a fairly comprehensive strategy for accessibility.

Please help me understand your situation if (1-3) does not address it. Thanks!

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## Re:Greetings! New designer/engineer aboard!

Posted by Mazi - 2008/04/30 18:06

bstaats wrote:

Ok, now I am officially confused. :)

Me too :cheer:

1. A web service interface is not a end user graphical interface. A web service interface is like RPC or SOA. Thus, javascript has no relevance.

The webservice has absolutely nothing to do with this javascript issue. I just wanted to point out that our company wants to contribute the webservice we are developing.

2. If you are talking about an end user browser-based graphical interface, then are you talking about turning Java off or Javascript off in the browser?

I'm talking about the limesurvey client side e.g. the user who fills out a survey and might be handicapped and therefore uses technical helpers like screenreaders or other stuff that might not be javascript compatible. Java doesn't matter.

3. Projects that are funded by the US government are also mandated to be accessible and proper use javascript (javascript turned on) does not disrupt this mandate. Especially given our use of Dojo, which has a fairly comprehensive strategy for accessibility.

I have read about the dojo teams' effort to consider accessibility issues. I hope I can persuade my boss that the way javascript is used is acceptable for our company.

Nevertheless can you estimate the effort necessary to create a non-javascript client interface (excluding the admin panel). I think it won't be easy because the dojo toolkit is deeply connected to the whole system?!

Thanks for your enlightening insights into limesurvey development.

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## Re:Greetings! New designer/engineer aboard!

Posted by macasek - 2008/05/01 21:40

The use of Dojo for all things UI does not imply the UI will not work if Dojo (or javascript) is removed. For example: If you have a textbox for collecting a date it is still a HTML textbox, Dojo is designed such that if this textbox is marked in a particular way Dojo will replace the textbox with it's date picker textbox.

So the answer to the question of 'will everything still work if javascript is disabled' is yes if everything is designed to degrade correctly. One big challenge here will be saving of results. We currently plan to leverage xhr to do auto saving so responses are recorded periodically (we do not wait for the page to be submitted). If javascript is disabled we will still need a strategy to save the users results on page submit. This is where we need to pay attention to how we degrade the UI when javascript is turned off.

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## Re:Greetings! New designer/engineer aboard!

Posted by Mazi - 2008/05/05 11:14

Thanks for this additional information.

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## Re:Greetings! New designer/engineer aboard!

Posted by Mazi - 2008/06/02 12:17

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macasek wrote:

So the answer to the question of 'will everything still work if javascript is disabled' is yes if everything is designed to degrade correctly. One big challenge here will be saving of results. We currently plan to leverage xhr to do auto saving so responses are recorded periodically (we do not wait for the page to be submitted). If javascript is disabled we will still need a strategy to save the users results on page submit. This is where we need to pay attention to how we degrade the UI when javascript is turned off.

Hi Michael/Brian,

can you add a few sentences about the progress regarding the marked topics?!

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## Re:Greetings! New designer/engineer aboard!

Posted by bstaats - 2008/06/02 21:54

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The Roadmap maintains weekly updates on LS2 progress in addition to features slated for the near future (e.g. non-javascript support)

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