



## French television portal powered by

French television viewers have a powerful new way of finding television content with the launch of Myskreen.com this month. The Myskreen.com project begun in June 2009 and is led by Frédéric Sitterlé, previously Head of New Media at the Le Figaro media group.



Frédéric Sitterlé

Myskreen provides users with a way of finding legally available content on video on demand (VOD) services online, with a 15 day programme guide and a way for users to find, save, view and review programmes.

The site allows users to search available television programmes by title, category, description and actors, and uses Flax's custom query translation to convert phrases such as 'tomorrow evening' into accurate date and time ranges to restrict the results. Over one million programmes are indexed. Flax also provides faceted search and automatic spelling correction of user queries. French language content is indexed as standard, as Flax works with many different languages.

Myskreen.com first approached Flax in August 2009 for assistance with their search engine. "We needed a very fast turnaround, and the Flax team responded to our needs very quickly", said CTO Benoit Bergstörn.

"We had a detailed specification agreed within ten days of our first meeting, and a first version of the search and indexing software after two weeks more. We're impressed with the Flax team's ability to deliver on time and on budget."



"Our work with Myskreen.com shows that search engines can be used for all kinds of content," said Charlie Hull of the Flax Team. "Myskreen.com needed their search results to be ranked by a combination of relevance and availability of the programme, which involved developing custom sorting algorithms."

[www.myskreen.com](http://www.myskreen.com)

### Cambridge Search Event

Flax sponsored the first Open Source Search event held in Cambridge this autumn. Attendees came from as far away as Tokyo and New Zealand to share a great variety of talks, presentation, networking and some excellent food!

Shane Evans from mydeco gave a detailed talk on Creating a Product Search Engine, with some interesting details on how query-independent weights are calculate. He was followed by Olly Betts on How Gmane is implemented using Xpian – 72 million messages indexed on a single server! We also had talks from those involved with the Cheshire3 XML search engine, PuppyIR, a project to develop search frameworks for children, and found out more about how Glasses Direct have implemented their search using SOLR.

The afternoon consisted of a number of well-attended seminars on search topics, such as comparisons of the various open source search engines available. The day ended with informal networking in a nearby pub.

Based on the feedback we have received, there's definitely interest in a similar event next year – watch this space.

### Online Information 2009

Charlie Hull of Flax will be on the panel of the closing keynote at this year's Online Information conference at London Olympia, 1st-3rd December. The exhibition and conference expect over 9,000 visitors from 70 countries providing an annual meeting place for the global information industry.

The keynote closes the event and is led by leading industry analyst Stephen Arnold. Charlie will be contributing to a discussion on future trends in search engines and content management, such as cloud computing, open source and semantics.

#### About Flax

The Flax Team is highly active in the information retrieval market with international clients from sectors including academia, public relations, e-commerce, government and private businesses.

The Flax™ project delivers a cutting-edge enterprise search solution, using the power of open source software to drive down costs and provide world beating search performance with no software licence fees.

Flax Logbook™ is a collaborative, web-enabled, multimedia database system used by academics and researchers.

The Flax Team also provides general expertise and development in technologies such as Java, C++, Linux, Windows and XML.