



## FT digital clippings service uses **FLAX**

When the Financial Times, one of the world's leading business news organisations, decided to bring its digital press cuttings in-house in summer 2010, they asked Flax to build a powerful 'search server' that they could easily integrate into their existing product offerings.

The Flax team built an indexer for the XML

source data and a RESTful Web Service API, offering search features including Boolean operators, phrase searches, area specifiers (search whole article, body, headline, byline or any combination), date range restrictions, similarity search ("articles like this one") and faceted search. Also available is spelling correction and synonyms, and detailed

logging of indexing and all searches.

This might sound like a complex task, but using open source technology, the Flax team created this system within less than a fortnight. Initially designed as a small-scale prototype, the system scaled easily to indexing hundreds of thousands of pages. You can use the service at <http://presscuttings.ft.com>.

### Lucid Imagination

Flax has been selected as authorized partner by Lucid Imagination, the commercial company for Lucene and Solr.

Apache Lucene and Solr, available as open source software from the Apache Software Foundation, are powerful, scalable, reliable and fully-featured search technologies. Solr is the Lucene Search Server, making it easy to build search applications for the enterprise.

Charlie Hull, who leads the Flax team, said "Solr is a powerful, scalable search engine already in use at some of the world's leading companies, including The Guardian, Elsevier, The Motley Fool, and Cisco. Our long experience in implementing search solutions using open source technology made this partnership a natural fit. We're very excited about the partnership and how it will further enable us to supply and support cutting-edge search solutions." Companies such as the Newspaper Licensing Agency, Mydeco and the University of Cambridge have already benefited from the expertise of the Flax team.

"The Lucene/Solr ecosystem is growing at an accelerated rate, with more and more organisations enjoying the economic benefits and flexibility of the open source model." said Eric Gries, CEO of Lucid Imagination. "The Flax team, with their decades of experience implementing search solutions, are perfectly placed to help customers create a search strategy for competitive advantage."

Flax now offers installation, integration and commercial support packages for Lucene and Solr, backed by Lucid Imagination.

### British Computer Society

Charlie Hull from Flax presented a talk at the British Computer Society's Search Solutions event in London on 21st October entitled: What's the story with open source? It focused on searching and monitoring news media using open source technology; slides can be seen at <http://slidesha.re/a7h7WL>

Earlier in the month, Charlie was on the closing panel at the Lucene Revolution conference in Boston, USA, discussing the future of search with Eric Gries, CEO of Lucid Imagination, and Paul Doscher, Exalead US CEO.

### 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.

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