# flax news

## flax chosen by major recruitment firm: REED

Reed Specialist Recruitment is part of Reed Global, which also includes Europe's biggest jobsite - reed.co.uk receiving over 1.5 million job applications per month.

Founded in 1960, REED is a specialist provider of recruitment solutions. It operates in Europe, the Middle East and Asia Pacific and has more than 3,000 permanent employees in 350 offices.

In 2010 REED launched its most ambitious programme of IT development with a raft of new search-based applications. Due to the many millions of items that needed to be searched, the applications had to be backed by a powerful and scalable enterprise search architecture.

The ability to correctly match candidates to jobs is absolutely key to future profitability: thus the performance and accuracy of the search engine directly drives business benefit.

After consideration of a number of commercial, closed-source search engines, REED engaged Flax who recommended the open-source Apache Lucene/Solr platform. Lucene/Solr is a powerful, scalable enterprise search server written in Java and used across the world by companies including IBM, eBay, Ford, and Boeing.

Flax worked closely with REED during an Agile development process building a flexible indexer for the complex database structures; hundreds of millions of database rows were to be indexed along with CVs held external to the database in different formats and languages.

Flax also built a custom Performance Tester and provides 24-7-365 ongoing support in conjunction with its partner Lucid Imagination Inc.

**REED
SPECIALIST
RECRUITMENT**

Philip Pegden, IT Director at Reed said: "The transition to Solr was the latest step in our strategy to develop a truly worldclass search application. We believe it provides a robust architecture that meets our future aims, it will scale economically and is a welcome addition to our existing suite of Open Source systems."

"Flax were a trusted partner throughout the work, brought significant expertise, and helped ensure we completed the project on time and to budget."

## HP buys Autonomy

The news wires have been positively buzzing since the announcement that Hewlett Packard will be buying Autonomy for £7.1bn. Many commentators have put a positive spin on this, pointing to Autonomy's meteoric rise from a small office in Cambridge to the behemoth it is today. It is undoubtedly good news for Autonomy's shareholders. Dave Kellogg correctly identifies Autonomy as a "finance company dressed in (meaning-based) technology company clothing" with a "happy ending".

However the reaction isn't all positive – the FT implies this deal is at the "lunatic end of the valuation spectrum". Law Technology News says "Autonomy's e-discovery revenue stream is high-end but unsustainable".

HP will have to work hard to integrate Autonomy into both its corporate culture and software frameworks – a problem currently faced by Microsoft since its acquisition of FAST. With the rise of open source options and realisation that huge license fees are unsustainable, Autonomy may not be the last company looking for a safe haven in the years to come.

## Flax presents at...

- Lucene Eurocon in Barcelona talking about a recent international Lucene/Solr search project: 19th-20th October 2011
- Enterprise Search Europe talking with Flax clients, Durrants, about "Building a Strong Business Foundation with Open Source Search": 24th-25th October 2011
- a combined event with the London Enterprise Search Meetup: 24th October 2011 (pm).

For more information on these events see: http://www.searchmeetups.com/

### About Flax

Flax is highly active in the information retrieval market with international clients from sectors including academia, public relations, e-commerce, government and private businesses. Flax's clients include The Financial Times, Accenture, the Newspaper Licensing Authority (NLA), The University of Cambridge and Mydeco.

Flax 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 is an authorized partner of Lucid Imagination, the commercial company behind Lucene & Solr.