Introduction to VuFind

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What It Is

• A customizable, user-friendly web interface for key library functions.
  – Search
  – Account management

• A flexible search engine for finding metadata and full text.

• A front-end for several third-party services (Summon, WorldCat, etc.)
VuFind in Action
VuFind in Action
What It Is Not

• A full Integrated Library System / Library Management System
  – You provide your own ILS/LMS back-end; VuFind pulls data in real-time.

• A source of index data
  – You provide your own data, either by indexing locally or subscribing to a third-party provider
Some Key Features

• Faceted searching
• Alphabetic heading browse
• “More like this” suggestions
• Third-party book covers/reviews
• User tagging/commenting/favorites
• Persistent URLs (for easy bookmarking/linking)
• Alternate theme for mobile devices
Underlying Technologies

• Apache and PHP for front-end web interface
• Solr for searchable index
• MySQL database for persistent data (user accounts, etc.)
• SolrMarc (a Java application) for MARC indexing
• PHP/XSLT command-line tools for non-MARC indexing
System Requirements

• Works on most operating systems (64-bit Linux recommended)
• Exact requirements depend on index size
• More memory = better performance
• Solr is scalable – you can start small and build out as needed.
Installation Process

• Install prerequisites (Apache, PHP, etc.)
• Install VuFind (easiest in Ubuntu using .deb package)
• Configure VuFind (by editing text .ini files)
• Index records (usually using SolrMarc)
Care and Feeding

• Set up automatic processes to keep the index up to date
• Back up database/index as needed
• Keep an eye on performance and adjust Java settings as needed
VuFind 1 vs. VuFind 2

VuFind 1
- PHP 5.2+
- Smarty + PEAR libraries
- Current stable release: VuFind 1.3
- Will be phased out after release 1.4

VuFind 2
- PHP 5.3+
- Zend Framework 2
- Beta code due on October 1, 2012
- Stable release expected during 2013
More Information

• Online Demo: http://vufind.org/demo
• Other Sites Using VuFind: http://vufind.org/wiki/installation_status
• VuFind Documentation: http://vufind.org/wiki/
• VuFind Online Support: http://vufind.org/support.php
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