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MPLA Webmaster Report
27 October 2010

Board Report Archive Conversion

I have *finally* completed converting the Board Reports Archive to PDF (from HTML.) To recap, I began this project a year or two ago, following the last site redesign, to lower the number of unique HTML files on our website. The theory was, the fewer the number of HTML files, the less work it would be to convert/redesign in the future. Most of the unique HTML files reside in the Board Reports Archive, which is where we have been (informally) archiving reports to the Executive Board since 1999 or so.

If you look at the contents of our website (at least the contents which I maintain as Webmaster), it breaks down as follows:

- Total Files: 3,465 (give or take)
 - HTML files: 126 (give or take) ← these are files that need to be updated regularly.
 - Board Reports Archive: 1,225 files (mostly HTML) ← these do not need to be maintained
 - Photos: 1,707 ← I don't need to maintain these
 - Conference Handouts: 403 ← I don't need to maintain these either

So, you can see of the HTML files on our website, I only really need to “touch” 126 files. So, to streamline my workflow, I converted all the old HTML board reports to PDF. Ironically, when these board reports were sent out all those years ago, they came out as text files or rich text format (in the days before MS Word was so pervasive), and eventually being sent out in Word format. I would take the text from the Word files and convert it to HTML, which was not as simple then as now ☺. And here, I have taken the HTML versions of these files and converted them back to Word and eventually PDF documents. We've come full circle!

Needless to say, converting 1,225 html files to Word and PDF is rather arduous (albeit not particularly labor intensive) work. I do need to concentrate on what I'm doing to maintain links across the site – and we made plenty of those slip ups as we went! It's akin to putting a new engine in a car – you take the old engine out, put a new one in, and then you have to make sure everything is hooked up correctly.

Old MPLA Newsletters

I mentioned last time that MPLA member Dana Boden asked me if I was interested in her old MPLA Newsletter issues. I said I was. She sent them to me. My thought was we had two MPLA Newsletters in the Newsletter collection which were bad links – in one case the PDF vanished, and in another, the PDF file was corrupted. I rescanned the two issues in question. My intention is, as my time allows, to scan these old issues and add them to our online collection. That should move our online availability date back to 1989, which might be kind of fun to have.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Chaney
MPLA Webmaster