STAR web update

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functional role of www within scientific collaboration

- facilitates communication among members
- central repository for information of all kinds
- framework for documenting analysis projects
- [...]

but beyond its functional role...

- presents collaboration to both scientific & nonscientific community (including funding agencies)
- public relations, community outreach & education

<u>www is a collaboration's opportunity to make a good first impression</u>

current star www pages

no need to elaborate!

- design dates back to 1995 (!)
- many pages & information seriously outdated
- strong need for reorganization & redesign

Back Media

Introduction
Timeline
Design features
Technical
Emphasis
Maintenance
What's needed
Conclusion

Nov. 2002

- Tim commissioned me to develop new layout for STAR's www pages

(then time passed...)

April 2003

- First working draft of new design presented to Spokesperson's Office and Jerome

(then time passed...)

August 2003

- New design presented to Collaboration

Everyone's busy, and frankly, web pages are <u>low</u> priority

![STAR logo]

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Prio	Task description	Likely tools / knowledge	Taken	Responsible Person
	Detector alignment/calibration development (w/ ITTF)	C/C++, STAR makers	H. Ward	David Hardtke
*	Development of a track transport code for large eta and FTPC/E-EMC (w/ ITTF)	C/C++, Kalman Tracking	S. Margetis W.M. Zhang	Claude Pruneau
	CTB Mixer development	C++, STAR makers		Jerome Lauret
*	EMC embedding deployment	C++, STAR makers		Alex P. Suaide
*	Disk Resource Manager	C/C++/Perl/Java		Jerome Lauret
	FileCatalog development	Perl/MySQL		Jerome Lauret
	Distributed Disk population diagnostic tool development	Perl/MySQL or Perl	M. Noriega	Jerome Lauret
	TPC Calibration/monitoring for DAQ100			Fabrice Retiere
*	L0, L1, & L2 scaler processing and DB feed		J. Landgraf J. Kiryluk	Jeff Porter
*	B-EMC tune up of the Slow simulator	C/C++, STAR makers		Alex P. Suaide & Marcia de Moura
*	B-EMC pedestal simulation	C/C++, STAR makers	Kirill Filimonov	Alex P. Suaide & Marcia de Moura
*	B-EMC trigger simulator	C/C++, STAR makers & chains	Jennifer Clay	Alex P. Suaide & Marcia de Moura
*	B-EMC database work	MySQL	Robert Cadman	Alex P. Suaide
*	B-EMC SMD uniformity			Alex P. Suaide
	New compiler investigation (Intel ...)	ROOT/StRoot/STL		Jerome Lauret
	STAR Web design and maintenance	HTML/Perl/CGI/Apache Server	D. Magestro	Jerome Lauret
	Common MuDst/ embedding	ROOT		
*	Gain matching of SMD strips for E-EMC	C++, STAR base class	W.M. Zhang	Jan Balewski
	Online DB data migration to Offline	MySQL/ROOT	W.M. Zhang	Jeff Porter
	Online web server development / STAR web mirror	HTML/Apache Server		Jeff Porter
*	GUI Tools for the Sti Event Display	C/C++, Root GUI classes		Claude Pruneau
	Expand Online Db browsing tools (RunLog Browser)	PHP/Perl/MySQL		Jeff Porter
	Expand Offline Db browsing tools	PHP/Perl/MySQL		Jeff Porter
*	Online histogram development/ DB feeder	ROOT		Jeff Porter
*	Online cluster configuration documentation	Some Linux Admin, HTML		Jeff Porter
*	Integrated beam+scaler+star-data time dependent monitoring tools	ROOT/Perl/MySQL		Jeff Porter & Jeff Langraf
*	Hypernews development	Perl	J. Lauret	Jerome Lauret

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design criteria

- Framework that allows for up-to-date information with minimal effort
- Flexible layout that expands (and contracts!) easily
- Create an atmosphere that encourages people to <u>want</u> to contribute content
- Migration from old to new site should have minimal impact (though some impact is always necessary)
- Create well-defined "maintenance structure" (i.e. who's responsible for what) to keep obsolete pages from building up
- (sad) Should be written to outlast me

<u>This isn't just about making our pages prettier, this is about providing a more functional tool that will serve us for years to come</u>

Back Media

STAR

- Introduction
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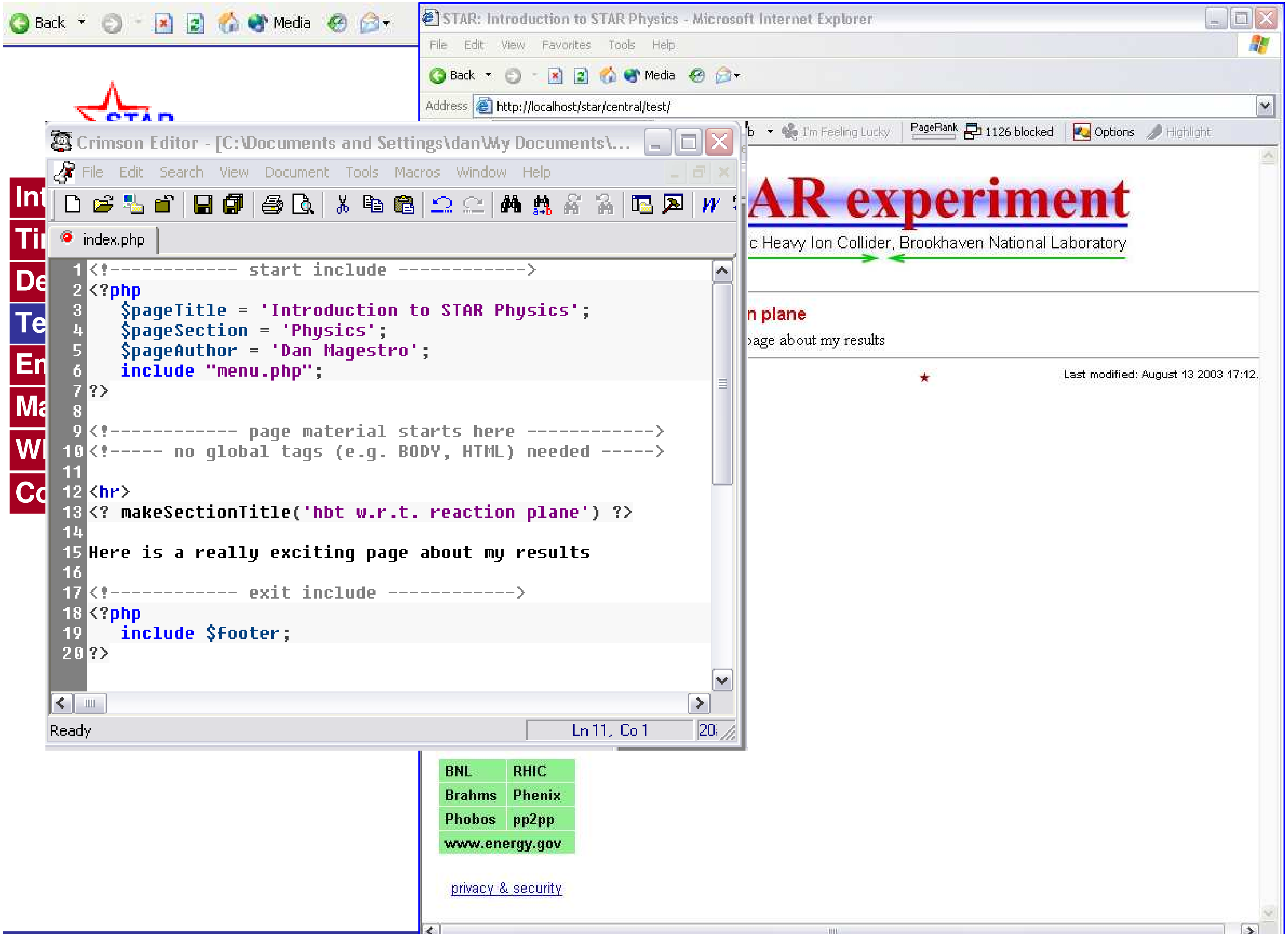
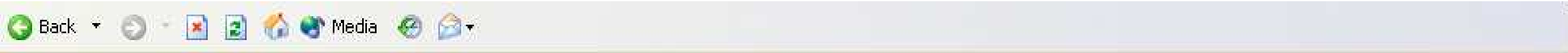
implementation (technical)

- Pages written in **PHP scripting language** (navigation menus, page footers, page layout, DB access, etc)
- **mySQL** tables for managing collaboration membership, institutes, publications, news & events, conference contributions
- **Web graphics are minimized** to ensure fast page loading (important consideration for some overseas institutes)
- Platform- and browser-dependent **CSS style sheets** take care of (annoying) incompatibilities and different font sets
- Template-style pages to ease new development, less dependence on layout

but do we really need a database just to have a list of publications on the web and to take care of author lists and stuff like that?


STAR: Introduction to STAR Physics - Microsoft Internet Explorer
http://localhost/star/central/test/
Crimson Editor - [C:\Documents and Settings\dan\My Documents\...
index.php
<!------------ start include ------------>
<?php
$pageTitle = 'Introduction to STAR Physics';
$pageSection = 'Physics';
$pageAuthor = 'Dan Magestro';
include "menu.php";
?>
<!------------ page material starts here ------------>
<!----- no global tags (e.g. BODY, HTML) needed ----->
<hr>
<? makeSectionTitle('hbt w.r.t. reaction plane') ?>
Here is a really exciting page about my results
<!------------ exit include ------------>
<?php
include $footer;
?>
Ready
Ln 11, Co 1
AR experiment
c Heavy Ion Collider, Brookhaven National Laboratory
n plane
page about my results
Last modified: August 13 2003 17:12.
BNL
RHIC
Brahms
Phenix
Phobos
pp2pp
www.energy.gov
privacy & security
Local intranet



mySQL database and star www

- Database 101: One set of content can be displayed in multiple ways
- phpMyAdmin: easy-to-use, form-based tool for managing sql tables

http://localhost/phpMyAdmin/index.php

A PHENIX example of good use of www+database

http://www.phenix.bnl.gov/conferences.html

3 main points of emphasis

PHYSICS

COLLABORATION

THE FUTURE

A strong emphasis on what we've accomplished will show that we have achieved our design goals, and an emphasis on what we're working on will show that we are busy and enthusiastic.

Back Media

STAR

- Introduction
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emphasis: physics

- Since STAR is deep into scientific program, emphasis shifts from physics plans to physics accomplishments
- Core requirements:
  - Up-to-date lists of publications, conference contributions, theses, etc.
  - Easy access to published figures & tables
  - Easy (internal) access to pwg-specific pages and results

additional ways to emphasize physics ← public relations!

- **STAR results**
  - short, 1-2 paragraph summaries of results highlights as they occur (perhaps even mandatory)
  - these could be written by a PA who isn't on the GPC, giving them some extra involvement & exposure
- **STAR physics in depth**
  - longer (monthly?) contributions, explaining an aspect of STAR physics, with a link prominently displayed on the front page

http://localhost/star/

Back Media

Introduction
Timeline
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emphasis: collaboration

- STAR's status as a large, international collaboration is one of its defining aspects – let's emphasize that
- This can be accomplished with up-to-date & easier access to collaboration membership & institution lists, news items from institutes, council membership, etc.

http://localhost/star/central/collaboration/

additional ways to emphasize collaboration

- Distribute attention more evenly among member institutions
- Lists of, and links to, funding governments and agencies
- perhaps bi-monthly articles about contributions of individual institutions...

Back Media

STAR

emphasis: the future

- Both from a physics and a detector standpoint
- Shows the scientific community and the DOE that we are actively working for our future
- Highlight work of STAR future planning committee (such as STAR Decadal Plan)
- Provide source of information for Tom Kirk, RHIC detector advisory committee, etc.

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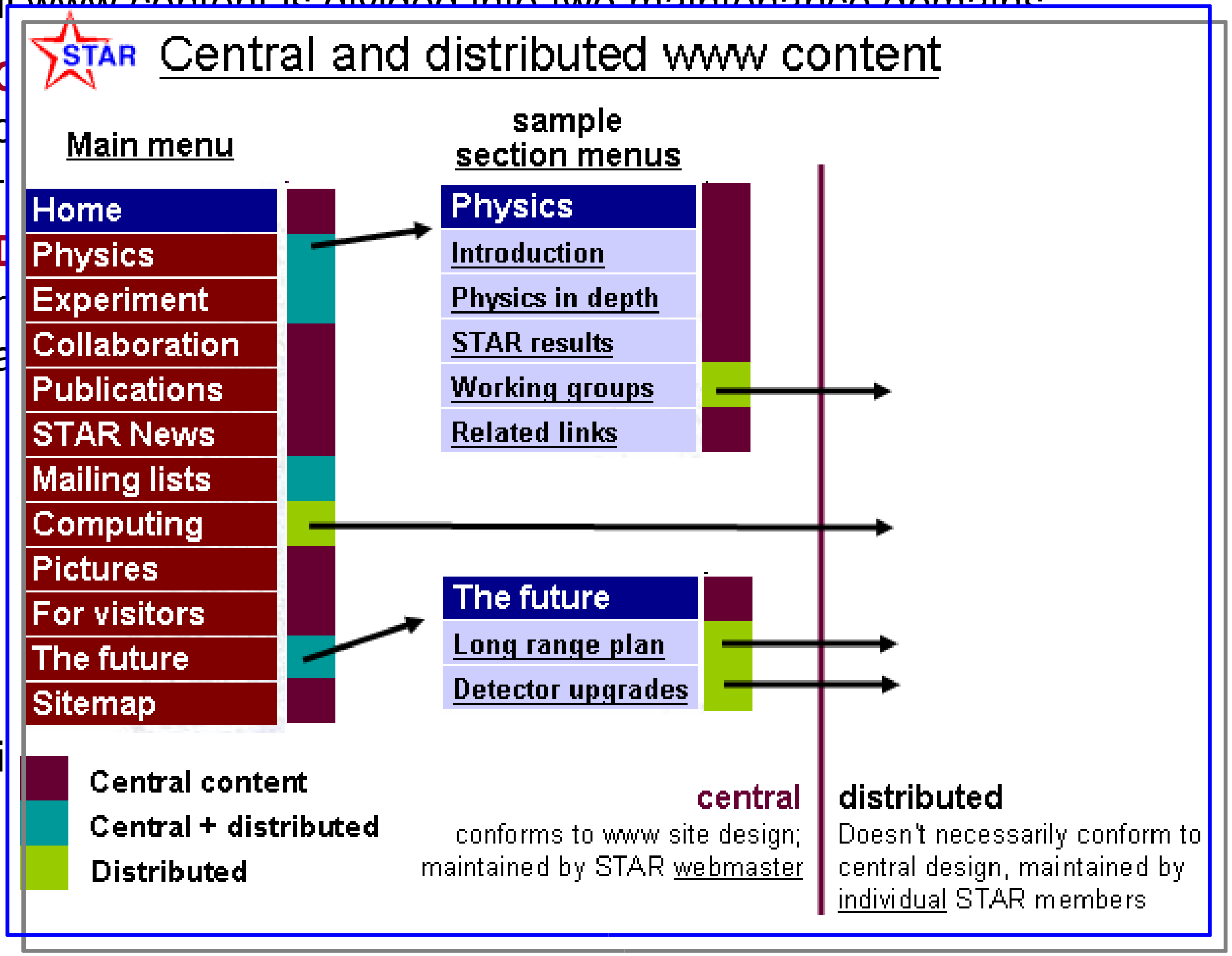
maintenance domains

- Keys to keeping web site up to date: simple layout & well-defined maintenance structure
- All www content is divided into two maintenance domains:



•Distri
using

what's needed

- Content & support from pwg's (requests coming)
- Content & support from detector groups (requests coming)
- Still some infrastructure needs to be written
- Final evaluation and approval by STAR Spokesperson's office
- Technical "stamp of approval" from Jerome

a call for help...

- Join STAR web team, 2-3 people willing to help out with main site maintenance, design new content, etc. (minimal effort needed)
- PHP & mySQL skills would be helpful (though not necessary
- This really is a <u>**side task**</u> – if you have the skills and time to contribute on a larger scale to STAR computing, do that instead!