

Hemlock

XMPP + Flash = Awesome.

Introducing Hemlock, a new open-source web framework from Mint Digital. Hemlock combines the richness of Flash with the scalability of XMPP, facilitating a new class of web applications where multiple users can interact in real time.

Hemlock code is being made available today, meaning developers can get started on building real-time web applications with ease.

The problem

To date, almost all websites consist of an HTML front-end on an SQL database. Any real-time interactions have to be simulated with the front-end constantly polling the back-end to see if there's any new data. When you have multiple users, these interactions become very 'expensive'. These applications also suffer from high latency because of the back and forth travel.

Our solution

Hemlock deals with this differently. Using XMPP, Hemlock registers a client with the server to receive messages. The client is then notified by the server when there is a new message; no polling required! In theory, it's very similar to how push email works. This, as well as keeping the network overheads low, gives very low latency interactions, so multiple users can actually interact with the same data in real time.

Why is this exciting?

As well as opening the gates to web applications of a different caliber, Hemlock makes it easy for developers to get started on building these without having to worry about the low-level foundation stuff. They can immediately get started on executing their ideas.

Why open source?

This was a no-brainer. We believe real-time interactions will be what defines the near-future web. So for us, it's exponentially more exciting to share enabling technology than keep the goodness to ourselves. We can't *wait* to see what developers will create with Hemlock.

Got any live Hemlock apps?

Yes, check out our flagship Hemlock app, Football3s - <http://football3s.com>. Football3s is a live fantasy football game you play along to live football matches on TV. It was actually the idea for this game that initiated Mint Digital building Hemlock; there simply wasn't anything out there Football3s could be developed on.

What's next?

With Hemlock publicly released and open sourced, we hope the developer community will join us in shaping and developing Hemlock into a better framework for the future. We also look forward to everyone's creations with Hemlock technology.

A little about Mint Digital

Mint Digital is a social web technologies company based in London and New York. Mint also works with clients such as Channel 4, Orange and BBC to create interactive sites that 'delight users'.

Need more info?

Links you may find useful:

<http://hemlock-kills.com/>

<http://www.mintdigital.com/>

<http://football3s.com/>

You can grab the Hemlock logo at: <http://hemlock-kills.com/images/header-logo.png>

Also, feel free to contact us:

UK:

Mint London +44 207 840-0889

or

Utku Can - utku@mintdigital.com - +44 751 565-6452

US:

Mint New York - +1 212 255-7751

or

Cameron Price - cameron@mintdigital.com - +1 212 255-7751

Ron DeVera - ron@mintdigital.com - +1 212 255-7751