



The RAI-NC Weblog Pilot

A Case Study in Utilizing Weblog Technology to Accelerate the Test & Evaluation Process

A Department of Defense CIO Office Initiative

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The RAI-NC Weblog Pilot Kickoff



Oct 7 2003 John Stenbit, CIO Department of Defense announces winners of DOD wide RAI-NC Pilots, including the *Test & Evaluation Weblog* proposal for DOD Project Management Offices sponsored by NUWC / ONR / DAU. This is one of four pilots (from 120 applicants) funded in FY 2004.

"The solution provides a secure, low-cost alternative for centralizing daily communications in a web-based environment. The tool is universal in its applicability and can benefit all DoD components, program offices, and business functional areas"

What's an Enterprise Weblog?



Personal Weblogs

Designed for “Individuals with an Attitude”

One voice per weblog

- Write what you think - easily
 - Add notes using your browser
 - Weblog server shows notes in time order
 - Anyone with a web browser can read
 - Links from other weblogs and search engines can make you famous!
-

Enterprise Weblogs

Designed for “Groups with a Goal”

Traction’s unique Journal supports working communication and information sharing, in context, over time.

Organized by Group, Importance, Topic, Time

- Project spaces have permissions, more private vs. more public
- Individuals see union of all activity, based on permissions

Overlapping Content

- Single article can appear in multiple projects
- Comment on public article can appear in private project

Always up to date

- All views are dynamic
- Search results are current and obey permissions
- Can deliver immediate notification of important events

Quick and easy to deploy, Simple to use



Pilot Background

The Need:

- Lower the cost structure for Test & Evaluation - technology overload
- Focus on rapid assessment of capabilities - requires knowledge from the front lines
- Fuse the knowledge of end users to shorten the learning curve - expedites the speed to capability



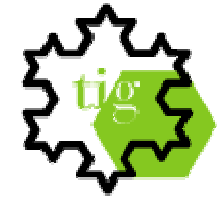
System Integrator
Migrates raw technology to application specific system

Test Community
DoD Services and First Responders, searching for the best tools for the job

The RAI-NC WEBLOG Pilot

Commercial Providers
Interested in developing and expanding markets

R&D Entities
Subject matter experts, vested interest in ongoing technology development



The User Perspective

G8 Summit Use Case and Highlights

The screenshot displays a web application interface with a dark blue header and sidebar. The main content area is white with a light blue border. The article title is "Laser Night Vision as a force multiplier" and it includes a date, author, and a list of actions like "Cross References" and "1 Comment". The article text describes the challenges of the G8 Summit and the role of the Laser Night Vision system. A sidebar on the left contains navigation links, and a sidebar on the right contains a search box, a calendar for August 2004, and a list of administrative actions.

Front Page > NightVision > 187

advanced search
Search

Show Full content

Front Page
NightVision
News
Test Results
Recent Entries
Bulletins
Labels

Laser Night Vision as a force multiplier

Analysis news test results

NightVision187 (#) | TrackBack | July 19, 2004 | 6:39:08 PM EDT
Posted and Edited by Capt. Jeffrey Schneider | View edit history
Cross References | 1 Comment

During the G-8 Summit, we faced two types of threats. The first was a domestic based group who wanted to disrupt the G-8 Summit activities and gain media coverage. The second was from multi-national groups who have ties to terrorist groups that had a goal of undermining the summit by conducting an attack(s) in which they targeted large group of people. Since the attacker holds the advantage of attacking at the time and place of their choosing the security elements are always at a disadvantage. 01

This fact is why Laser Night Vision was so important to our security of the main industrial areas of the Greater Savannah area. With a Laser coaxial mounted to a low light camera we were able to observe area which where in low light areas such as roof tops, open areas, water fronts, and ally way were all able to be observed. 02

The laser Night Vision System is truly flexible, it was able to be hastily installed to a M998 (HUMVEE) quickly and use the available power of the vehicle. The Laser Night Vision Systems is a low cost and highly flexible system which will fill the gap between passive night vision (for purely tactic use) and extreme active illumination such as white light (spot lights). Bottom Line, Laser Night Vision allowed me as a commander to complete my mission with the greatest of flexibility. 03

Article Comments:

ref. NightVision63: G8 Summit Deployment, Day 1 , NightVision80: G8 Summit, Day 5 - Field test of night vision systems, NightVision130: Feedback from Georgia State Patrol at the G8 Summit
[Greg Lloyd, NightVision191, July 19, 2004, 8:01:55 PM EDT]

< AUGUST 2004 >

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
» 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
» 8	9	10	11	12	13	14
» 15	16	17	18	19	20	21
» 22	23	24	25	26	27	28
» 29	30	31	1	2	3	4

- Add New Article
- Print Version
- Show Collector
- Edit Article
- Reclassify Article
- Email Articles
- Collect Articles
- Add Comment
- Email Reply
- Send Trackback
- Visibility
- Erase Articles
- Sign Out
- My Account (mtk)
- Project Setup
- Server Setup

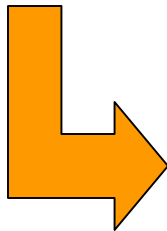
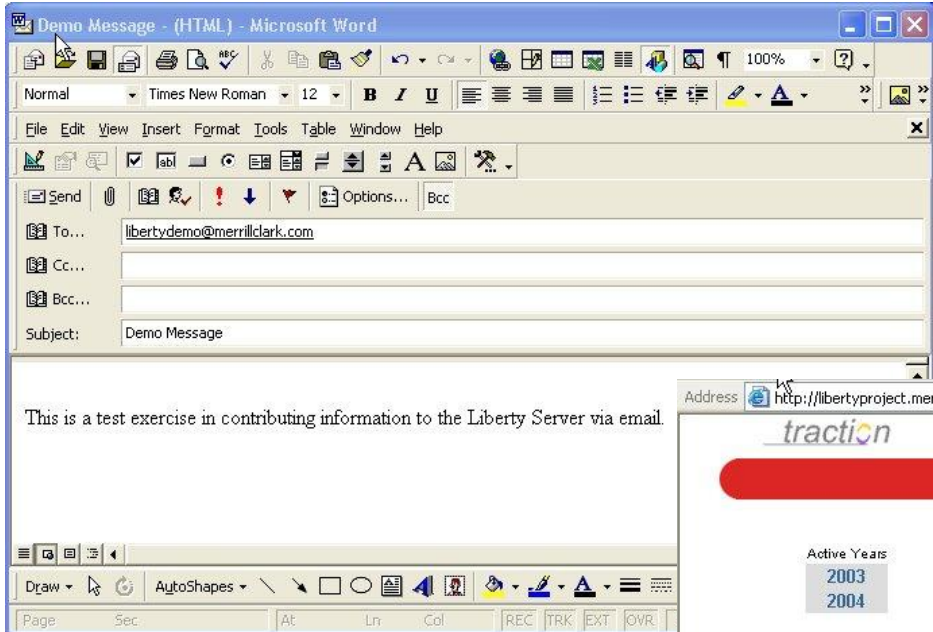
Shortcuts

Click any of these links to get summarized results from all projects you have permission to read.

Quick click

- Recent Entries (brief)
- Project Descriptions
- Label Descriptions / Data Dictionary

Publishing via Email



Pilot Weblog Structure

The News Page View is fully scalable for any time slice

Project are analogous to sections of a newspaper, currently we are on the Trials Front Page

The screenshot shows the 'tractions' website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Front Page > trials > Newspaper | List Articles | Go To Today'. Below this is a red header with 'Time range: week' and 'January 11, 2004 - January 17, 2004'. The main content area is divided into several sections: a calendar for January 2004, a search bar with 'advanced search' and 'Add New Article' options, a 'Shortcuts' section with links to 'Assets', 'Test results', and 'Schedule', and a 'Projects' section with a list of project names including 'analysis', 'demo', 'Ekneeboard', 'oversight', 'programteam', 'RAINC', 'summary', and 'trials'. The 'trials News' section features a large image of a sailboat and the title 'Developmental Testing Results, Evolution III'. Below this is a 'Recent trials Entries' section with links to 'DOD RAI-NC Project - By the Skin of Our Teeth...', 'ONR Report - Development and Field Testing of Night Vision Systems Using Diode Laser Based IR Illuminators', and 'FW: Brief for Commander Yasui'. Finally, there's a 'trials Bulletins' section with links to 'NUWC-BAA 2003 Schedule' and 'Project Schedules for ONR TIG and NUWC BAA'. Each section has an 'Archive' button.

Entries self-populate by date and classification

Accessing Test Results

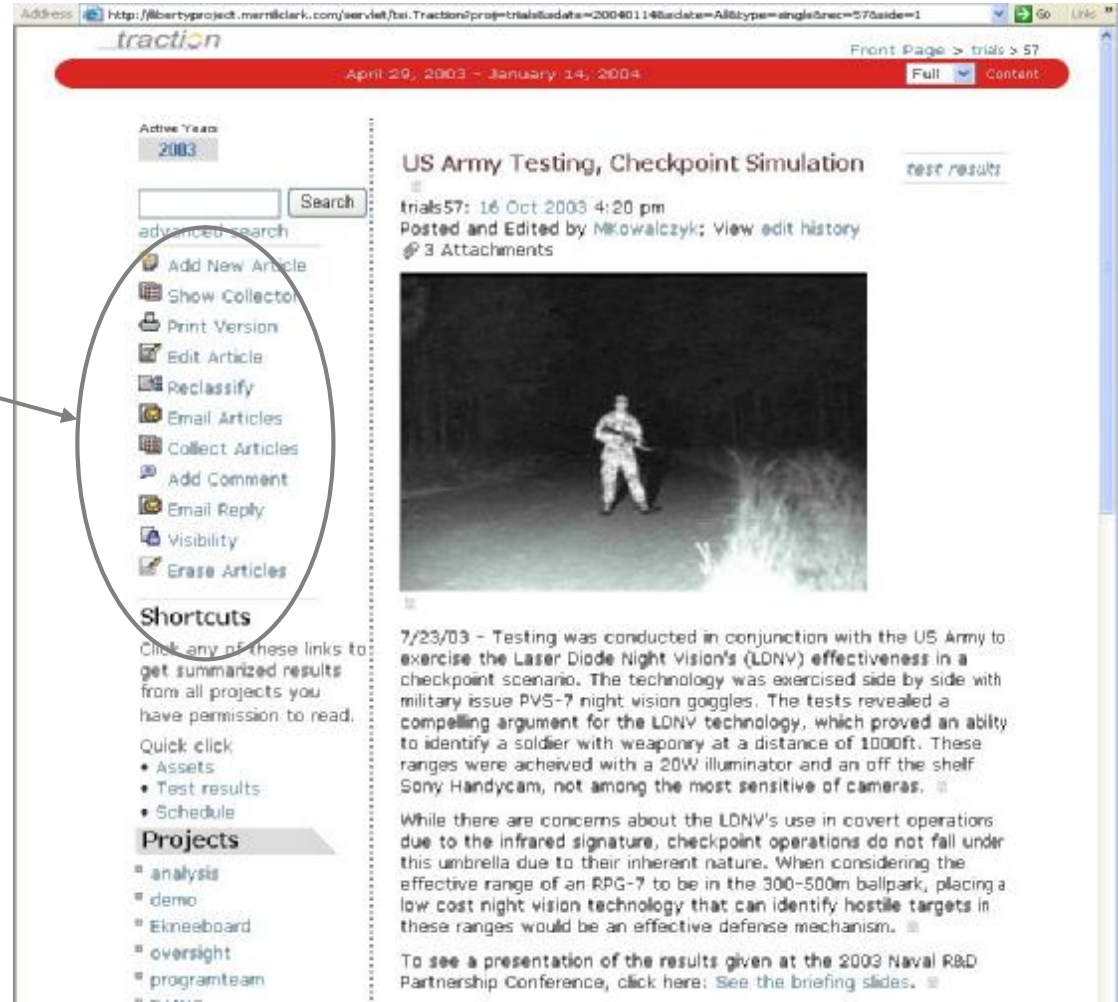
Items categorized with the “Test Results” label are instantly assembled to predefined shortcuts

The screenshot shows a web application interface with a sidebar on the left and a main content area on the right. The sidebar contains several sections: 'Active Year' (2003), 'Search', 'Advanced search', 'Add New Article', 'Show Collector', 'Print Version', 'Collect Articles', 'Email Articles', 'Shortcuts' (with a list of links), 'Projects' (with a list of links), 'Activity by topic' (with a list of links), and 'Tools' (with a link to 'Project Setup'). The main content area displays a list of articles. The first article is titled 'ONR Report – Development and Field Testing of Night Vision Systems Using Diode Laser Based IR Illuminators' and is labeled 'test results'. The second article is titled 'US Army Testing, Checkpoint Simulation' and is also labeled 'test results'. The third article is titled 'Developmental Testing Results, Evolution III' and is labeled 'test results' and 'news'. An arrow points from the text box on the left to the 'test results' label on the 'US Army Testing, Checkpoint Simulation' article. Another arrow points from the text box on the right to the nested headline of the same article.

Clicking on the nested headline brings the user to the full article

Article Interface

Once in the article interface, the software allows the user to perform a host of functions (per permissions) including the ability to add nested comments, add links to other articles, or email the article to non-subscribers. This interactive ability fosters information flow and connectivity across a program team.



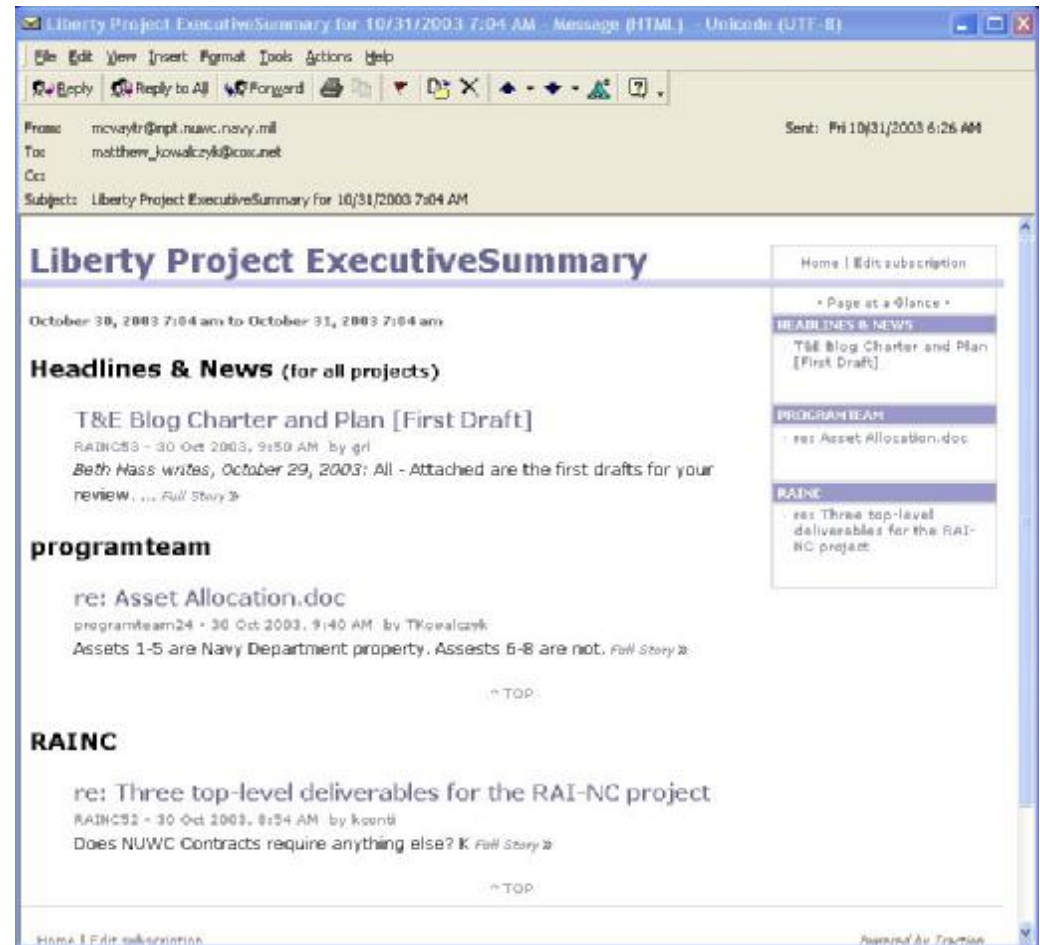
The screenshot displays the 'traction' web application interface. At the top, the address bar shows the URL: <http://libertyproject.marriott.com/servlet/bel.Traction?proj=trials&data=20040114&data=All&type=single&rec=57&side=1>. The page header includes the date range 'April 29, 2003 - January 14, 2004' and navigation links for 'Full' and 'Content'. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Active Years:** A dropdown menu showing '2003'.
- Search:** A search input field with a 'Search' button.
- Advanced Search:** A section with various search options.
- Actions:** A list of interactive functions: Add New Article, Show Collector, Print Version, Edit Article, Reclassify, Email Articles, Collect Articles, Add Comment, Email Reply, Visibility, and Erase Articles. This list is circled in the image, with an arrow pointing from the text box on the left.
- Shortcuts:** A section with a heading 'Click any of these links to get summarized results from all projects you have permission to read.' and a list of quick-click options: Assets, Test results, and Schedule.
- Projects:** A list of project names: analysis, demo, Ekneeboard, oversight, and programteam.

The main article content is titled 'US Army Testing, Checkpoint Simulation' and includes a 'test results' link. The article text reads: '7/23/03 - Testing was conducted in conjunction with the US Army to exercise the Laser Diode Night Vision's (LDNV) effectiveness in a checkpoint scenario. The technology was exercised side by side with military issue PVS-7 night vision goggles. The tests revealed a compelling argument for the LDNV technology, which proved an ability to identify a soldier with weaponry at a distance of 1000ft. These ranges were achieved with a 20W illuminator and an off the shelf Sony Handycam, not among the most sensitive of cameras. While there are concerns about the LDNV's use in covert operations due to the infrared signature, checkpoint operations do not fall under this umbrella due to their inherent nature. When considering the effective range of an RPG-7 to be in the 300-500m ballpark, placing a low cost night vision technology that can identify hostile targets in these ranges would be an effective defense mechanism. To see a presentation of the results given at the 2003 Naval R&D Partnership Conference, click here: See the briefing slides.'

The Executive Summary

The Executive Summary serves as a daily rundown of new information in the project, delivered via email. It is delivered only when there is new content, and filtered to the projects that a user has subscriptions to.



Situational Awareness

The Executive Summary and RSS aggregator give the PM a pulse on project activities, without labor intensive manual report generation.



Executive Summary – A daily snapshot of new project information, automatically compiled and delivered through email

RSS Aggregator – A locally installed applications that surveys the weblog at 15 minute intervals and alerts when new information becomes available

Direct Access to Project Information

- The PM is a click away from accessing the latest snapshots of program information. Hyperlinks to the weblog space are dynamic, delivering the latest content and updates autonomously.

- Action Items
- Project Deliverables
- Expenditures
- Project Documents
- Communications (both formal and informal)

T&E Weblog Results

- *50% Reduction in Time Expended for Electronic Communications Management (End-user)*
- *75% Reduction in Status Reporting Process*
- *29% Reduction in Total Ownership Costs*
- *89% Reduction in Bandwidth Usage*

T&E Weblog Opportunity Analysis (DoD Final Report)
December 2004 FOUO

Benefits Summary

- Ease of use, works like the web, new partners are easily brought up to speed
- Manages project data in an organized, searchable manner, accessible from any web connection
- Delivers the right data to the right people, minimizes information overflow, filters content and use through permissions