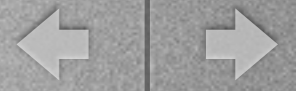




Why Devs needs Ops

Or MP's, Crowds and failure



MP's Expenses



Investigate your MP's expenses

Join us in digging through the documents of MPs' expenses to identify individual claims, or documents that you think merit further investigation. You can work through your own MP's expenses, or just hit the button below to start reviewing. (Update, Fri pm: we now have a virtually complete set of expenses documents so you should be able to find your MP's) Already created an account? [Log in here](#).

We have **458,832** pages of documents. **28,378** of you have reviewed **223,873** of them. Only **234,959** to go...

[Start reviewing](#)

Please read our [privacy policy](#) to find out how we use your data. You must also read our [terms of service](#). By reviewing pages, you are agreeing that you have read the terms of service, and that you agree to them.

Thanks everyone for your valiant efforts so far.

You're amply justifying our hope that many hands can make light work of the thousands of documents released by Parliament in relation to MPs' expenses. We, and others - perhaps you? - are still using these tools to review each document, decide whether it contains interesting information, and extract the key facts.

Some pages will be covering letters, or claim forms for office stationery. But somewhere in here is the receipt for a duck island. And who knows what else may turn up. If you find something which you think needs further attention, simply hit the button marked "investigate this!" and we'll take a closer look.

How to get involved:

Investigate your own MP's documents

Enter your postcode:

[Find your MP](#)

Or search by MP name or constituency:

[Search](#)

Most line items added (last 48 hrs)

[all time](#)

Most pages reviewed (last 48 hrs)

[all time](#)

anon-28375	2 votes
anon-28377	2 votes
anon-28378	2 votes
anon-28374	1 vote
anon-28376	1 vote



Simon Willison

“You can now build working software in less time than it takes to have the meeting to describe it”

Photo courtesy of Tom Coates





Prototyping

- 1 Meeting = 6 people * 1 hour = 6 hours
- 1 prototype = 1 dev * 6 hours = 6 hours!
- New Software Development Stacks for Rapid development
 - Django, Rails, Node.js, Lift, Moustache, Play, .NET MVC Scalatra...



Example

- MP's Expenses
 - 1 Developer/ 1 Week
 - 1 Designer / 2 Days
 - 1 SysAdmin / 1 Day
 - EC2 - £50
 - Live 10 days after work started



Not always roses

- Prototype code does not scale
- Prototyping devs don't think of everything
- ...(or even anything!)



Crash #1

- Default Configs
 - Our default
 - 50 apache children
 - 30 MySQL connections
 - This isn't going to work well!



@simonw

Simon Willison

<http://mps-expenses.guardian.co.uk/> hit refresh and watch the red bar go down as we add more documents

18 Jun 09 via web



@simonw

Simon Willison

OK, please stop refreshing the homepage,
our database hurts

18 Jun 09 via web



ORM's suck mkay

- `Pages.object.filter
(votes__isnull=True).distinct.count`
- `SELECT COUNT(DISTINCT ...) FROM
'expenses' LEFT OUTER JOIN 'vote' ON
(...)
WHERE 'vote.id' IS NULL`



Crash #2

- The code was bad, the SQL was really bad
- but it takes a sysadmin to point out...
- DB using 135% of CPU
- DB and Apaches on the same box = bad idea



How to migrate a DB

- There's a lot of tools
- It could be quite an effort
- It's really broken now
- SysAdmins are really evil (especially @pnasrat)



How to migrate a DB

- `ssh mps-live "mysqldump mp_expenses" | sed 's/ENGINE=MyISAM/ENGINE=InnoDB/g' | sed 's/CHARSET=latin1/CHARSET=utf8/g' | ssh mysql-big "mysql -u root mp_expenses"`



Next time

- Things our sysadmin would have suggested if he'd heard about the project prior to the day of release



httpperf /
apachebench / curl
+forloop



Squid/Varnish



So why didn't we?

- “SysAdmins slow us down”
- “SysAdmins ask difficult questions”
- “SysAdmins want to puppet everything”



What do we know now

- “SysAdmins ask the right questions”
- “SysAdmins want repeatability”
- “SysAdmins know some gnarly stuff”
- “SysAdmins can make us go faster”



DevOps

- Sometimes what you need is not a “SysAdmin”
- Uptime is important
- What you need is “Crash Mat Arranger”
- Recovering from failure fast is important