Archives Connection Suite
MHD

http://www.positix.de

The POSITIX Archives Connection Suite (ACS) is an easy way to integrate jukeboxes into a company's data management. It provides an user-friendly Web-access for storing and retrieving data stored on exchangable media. For system integrators, there is a well-documented and plain application interface (API) written in C++.

In this document, the MHD component of The POSITIX Archives Connection Suite is presented. This component's purpose is the management of archives of a varying data collection. That means, you cannot only store and retrieve files, but you can also delete them. As a special feature, ACS MHD offers the possibility to define the life-time of a document: You specify the expiration date of a document and when this time has come, MHD automatically deletes the document for you. Alternatively, MHD can automatically move documents to a write-once medium at their time given. Then this medium can be removed from the jukebox and stored at a safe place. We subsume both possibilities with the term *hibernation*. In the case of deletion, a document hibernates to nirvana, otherwise a document will hibernate at some lower level of the storage hierarchy. Elsewhere, this behaviour may be known as retention management.

As the hibernation date is a per-document feature, MHD can only work with rewritable media within a jukebox. This could be magnetic optical disks (MOD), DVD-RAM or some of its successors, UDO- or PDD-technology for example.

All information on the files of the archives are stored in a database. This includes a file identifier, the original file name, time information and arbitrary meta-data. Nevertheless, the database contents can be reconstructed completeley from the information stored on the media.

The structure of POSITIX ACS MHD is depicted below. As you can see, there are two ways to access the archives. The first and easiest one is simply using a standard web-browser for searching, retrieving and storing files.

Since not all features of POSITIX ACS MHD can be mapped to standard HTTP access, application specific front-ends can be build on top of the intriguingly simple but powerful C++ application interface.

The ACS server itself runs in a Linux box and offers remote access via HTTP or the ACS API. Thus, it can be easily integrated into Microsoft, APPLE, UNIX and Linux environments. Optionally, a separate graphical management-interface is available.

Although POSITIX ACS MHD can be used on its own, it mainly addresses system integrators because MHD cannot know about the meaning of the data stored. This knowledge is best integrated into an application specific front-end using the API.