

huffduffer

“Create a podcast of found sounds.”

create a podcast

I don't mean "create audio files."

what is a
podcast?

A podcast is not an audio file.

RSS & enclosures

Enclosures are a way of attaching multimedia files to RSS feeds (for download rather than embedding).

A form of hypertext (hypermedia, really).

found sounds

<http://hicksdesign.co.uk/journal/hicksdesigns-found-sounds>

Jon Hicks created a podcast: an RSS file that uses enclosures to link to MP3 files on band sites.

I've been thinking about maybe putting together a podcast — just an RSS feed — that points to interesting inspirational talks, sort of like Jon's Found Sounds podcasts but for spoken word instead of music.

—April 2008

<http://adactio.com/journal/1460/>

Creating an RSS feed by hand is a pain.

By creating a service to automate that process, I was scratching my own itch.

If it's useful to me, it might be useful to others too.

HF/DF

This is normally the point when a definition is quoted from Wikipedia.

I'm going to quote Neal Stephenson instead.

May I ... know ... to satisfy my own ... curiosity ... what sort of ...?" the Duke says, and trails off.

Waterhouse is ready for this. He is so ready that he has to hold back for a moment and try to make a show of discretion. "Huffduff."

"Huffduff?"

"HFDF: High Frequency Direction Finding. A technique for locating distant radio transmitters by triangulating from several points."

—Cryptonomicon

code

Django?

PHP?

framework?

MVC

Handy tip for strict separation: develop as if for a multi-lingual site; it will stop you sneaking small “views” into your models or controllers.

data

audio file + person = bookmark

url	name	title
size	email	description
type	url	tags

URLs

/new/rss

/popular/rss

/tags

/tags/tag/rss

/username/rss

/username/tags

/username/tags/tag/rss

Readable, guessable, hackable URLs are A Good Thing.

Any page that has an RSS feed also has a JSON version (just swap /rss for /json). Also: xspf.

presentation

font-family: Baskerville,
Garamond,
'Hoefler Text',
'Adobe Caslon Pro',
'Bell MT',
'Times New Roman',
Georgia,
sans-serif;

If you're only going to get one thing right, get the typography right.

Huffduffer consciously avoids rounded colours, gradients and so-called "friendly" typefaces.

The look is sparse, slightly austere, even a little elitist. But that encourages thoughtful participation.

Designed in the browser. Photoshop was used, but not very often.



Apart from the logotype, there is just one image on the site.

This manicule is from the corner of Sackville Road and New Church Road in Hove.

[SIGN UP](#)[LOG IN](#)SEARCH

huffduffer

Sign up

I would like to use Huffduffer. I want my username to be _____ and I want my password to be _____. My email address is _____.

By the way, my name is _____ and my website is _____.”

[JOIN](#)

An attempt to make the sign-up process suck less. This garnered a lot of attention.

Dan Cederholm dubbed it the “mad libs” sign-up form. I had never heard of the game.

behaviour



The image shows a browser window with the title "Huffduff it on Huffduffer". The page content includes the heading "Huffduff it" followed by a horizontal line. Below this are four form fields: "AUDIO FILE URL" (a single-line text input), "TITLE" (a single-line text input), "DESCRIPTION" (a large multi-line text area), and "TAGS" (a single-line text input). At the bottom of the form is a prominent orange button with the text "HUFFDUFF IT".

Not much JavaScript: just a bookmarklet to pop open a huffduffing window.

structure

HTML5

microformats

hCard hAtom rel-tag xFolk

HTML5 just for the heck of it.

The AUDIO element was dropped because of Safari's aggressive pre-buffering.

XFN

twitter.com/adactio

[flickr.com/photos/adactio](https://www.flickr.com/photos/adactio)

adactio.com

dopplr.com/traveller/adactio

[last.fm/user/adactio](https://www.last.fm/user/adactio)

rel="me"

XFN uses the rel attribute as a simple way of defining relationships e.g. friend, co-worker, sweetheart

On the surface of it, the "me" value seems pointless. Actually, it's enormously powerful, allowing you to associate multiple URLs with a single person.













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adactio / Jeremy Keith



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Elsewhere

-  adactio.com
-  97bottles.com
-  bulletproofajax.com
-  dconstruct06.madgex.com
-  huffduffer.com
-  identi.ca
-  ma.gnolia.com
-  pownce.com
-  technorati.com
-  twitter.com
-  www.dopplr.com
-  www.flickr.com
-  www.last.fm

rel="me"

Google's Social Graph API makes the "elsewhere" list possible.

hKit is used to parse hCards on other sites to extract the value of the "photo" property.


In the case of Last.fm, it's simpler to parse the HTML of a public profile rather than making an authenticated API call.

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Huffduffed (155) 

Elsewhere

-  adactio.com
-  97bottles.com
-  bulletproofajax.com
-  dconstruct06.madgex.com
-  huffduffer.com
-  identi.ca
-  ma.gnolia.com
-  pownce.com
-  technorati.com
-  twitter.com
-  www.dopplr.com
-  www.flickr.com
-  www.last.fm

sparklines

Coined by Edward Tufte: “data-intense, design-simple, word-sized graphics.”

Made possible by the Google Chart API.

Shows activity over time.

machine tags

book:title=cryptonomicon

music:artist=radiohead

film:title=star wars

New York Times

APIs

Amazon

Last.fm

Also called triple tags. As seen on Flickr.

Machine tagging *emerged* on Huffduffer.

Xavier Roy (username: Jax) just started doing it one day.

Machine tagging a file on Huffduffer is a way of initiating searches on other data providers.

social networking

▶ Huffduffer: adactio	8:24	07/12/2008	An Irish web developer living in Brighton, England working with Clearleft. I... i
▶ Huffduffer: clagnut	3:21	14/11/2008	Found tunes given away by bands and labels. Indie, alt-country and the like. i
▶ Huffduffer: for:adactio			for:adactio i
▶ Huffduffer: hickensian			Graphic designer for print and new-fangled media, based in Oxfordshire. ... i
▶ Huffduffer: samuelcotterall			Lovely music. i
▶ Huffduffer: skillswap	1:09:20	01/12/2008	i

The web doesn't need another social network.

The "for:" tag is taken straight from Delicious.

iTunes + bookmarklet = a site you never have to visit.

The ambitious plan: use the Social Graph API to drive recommendations based on relationships on other sites e.g. "You're should listen to this audio file because it was huffed by this person that you know on Flickr, Twitter, etc."

post-launch

huffduffer.lighthouseapp.com

getsatisfaction.com/huffduffer

twitter.com/huffduffer

Huffduffer launched in October 2008.

Because I'm a lone developer, a to-do list would probably be as good as using a bug-tracking service.

One or two people asked for comments but nobody really uses them.

Surprisingly, people aren't clamouring for the ability to host files.

The Twitter account is a bot. Either be a human or be a machine but don't be both.



Building Huffduffer was a rewarding experience.

Because I was scratching my own itch, even if no-one else used it, it's still useful to me.

As it turns out, there are now thousands of huffduffed files from over a thousand users.

The next step is to use the network effects for recommendations and trends.