

Sun and Access Innovations, Inc..



“Access Innovations, one of the pioneers of the database publishing industry, has survived the rough seas of the post-bubble environment and re-emerged with a new business model for automatic indexing solutions - and more successful customer installations than any similar provider.”

- Steve Sieck, Managing Partner, EPS-USA

Market Segment

Access Innovations' market includes all organizations with a collection of electronic documents. Current clients include:

- Academic Libraries
- Corporate and Business Entities
- Government Agency Libraries
- Industry and Professional Associations
- Publishers

Value Proposition

Having created the Data Harmony suite of taxonomy tools for internal use, Access Innovations rewrote it in Java™ and began marketing it to clients in 1998. Since then the company has received a number of awards recognizing its leadership in the information architecture industry.

Its offerings are focused on the management of ever growing collections of information assets and include services and software to abstract, categorize, convert, index, and manage the items in these collections. Capable of building or customizing an enterprise thesaurus or taxonomy, Access Innovations' Thesaurus Master™ software allows clients to do so themselves as well. Their Machine Aided Indexer™ product, using an editor-accessible rule base to fine tune its performance, can produce over 90% accuracy. Integrated with a search engine, these products make searches truly effective. XIS, the XML Intranet System, provides content management and completes the collection.

The Java browser-based products operate across platforms and can be easily integrated with clients' existing content retrieval and enterprise portal products.

Responding to client needs and an evolving industry, recent product enhancements include the ability to export in OWL format

(Web Ontology Language) for the Semantic Web. A Notation module allows display of thesaurus terms alternately arranged in a client-specified process, chronological, organizational, developmental, or other order. Specialized versions of the software respond to unique needs to classify collection items using Library of Congress Subject Headings or to identify the occurrences of chemical names in patent or research documents.

Competitive Standing

As taxonomies become more important to enterprises with burgeoning information collections, effective tools for maintaining controlled vocabularies and for automating indexing and management functions have become imperative. Data Harmony software improves both the recall (percentage of relevant documents found and returned) and precision (percentage of returned documents that are indeed relevant) of search engines. Most search engines can be integrated with Data Harmony to provide several search options to expand the number of returns as required – from exact match to a preferred subject term to discovery searches including related terms within a broader subject area.

In business since 1978, a sampling of Access Innovations' clients - AOL, Cambridge Scientific Abstracts, General Foods Corporation, NASA, National Security Agency, Special Libraries Association – explains their

ability to respond to the uniqueness of each organization's information assets collection.

Written in Sun Java, using XML as storage format, and compliant with Unicode, W3C, ANSI/NISO and ISO standards, Access Innovations' Data Harmony software integrates easily with portal management systems, scales efficiently, and connects to the great majority of search engines to significantly improve their results.

Access Innovations is a leader in rule-based machine aided indexing. In addition to excellent precision and recall results, the automated indexer is easily customized to handle specialized word meanings represented in a collection as well as their common and/or industry-related synonyms. The automated indexer produces consistent results and is easily fine-tuned, even in rapidly changing disciplines or industries.

Data Harmony users routinely achieve a fourfold increase in productivity with equal or better accuracy in indexing both legacy and contemporary collections.

Clients choose the Data Harmony software for its feature-rich tools and cutting edge enhancements. The Notation Module enhances the ability of lay persons to understand and use thesaurus management tools as well as providing enterprise-specific logical arrangements of terms. The Web Ontology Language (OWL) output module has

positioned Data Harmony users to leverage their resources fully in exciting new inter-connections. Specialized client needs resulted in the MAI Chem and MAI Library product versions. Customers can "jump-start" their specialize thesaurus development with the use of over 40 targeted knowledge domains available from Access Innovations.

Benefits of Running Data Harmony on Sun Open Standards – The use of Java and recognized industry standards enables Data Harmony software to be easily integrated with enterprise content systems and readily scalable as collections are acquired, digitized, or expanded.

Sun Solaris™ systems are an excellent choice for storing the collection of information objects and hosting portal software, offering both performance and scalability advantages.

Typical Configurations

The Data Harmony Server component needs only a 166 MHz processor, 128 MB of RAM, and 400 MB of free disk space. As the combined thesaurus terms and rule base grow beyond about 10,000 entries, additional disk space is necessary (and a faster processor recommended). Disk space and RAM required for the XIS, XML Intranet System database will depend on the database size.

Client machines run the applications in a web browser and require 64 MB of RAM and 125 MB of free disk space.

The software is also available in a single-machine version.

Resources required for the search engine and a portal management solution into which Data Harmony "plugs in" depend on the specific products selected.

The Data Harmony installation at the U.S. Government Accounting Office is partnered with a Sun Solaris solution.

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