QUIE²T (247597)

DELIVERABLE D3.2.3 MID-TERM WEB SITE UPDATE WITH INTEGRATION OF NEW FEATURES

Work on a web site has started already before the beginning of the project, and an operational web site was in place on day one of the project. It was decided early on to use a web-based Content Management System (CMS) that would allow administrative tasks to be carried out remotely by any authorized administrator. In addition, it allows the administrators to rely on a set of already implemented common features and tools and harness the power of the underlying Database Management System (DBMS) which greatly simplifies the tasks of maintaining a rich content web site.

The hosting has been offered by the Niels-Bohr Institute in Copenhagen, who agreed to continue the service following the successful hosting of the predecessor project QUROPE.

The main domain for the web site has been chosen deliberately to be

http://qurope.eu/

It is supposed to be an umbrella domain for several QIPC related subjects and projects.

The following sections include a general description of the web site, the current features and the planned future additions.

Content Management System

The selected CMS for the web site is Drupal¹, an open source content management platform written in PHP. In the following we will briefly describe how it was selected and outline the main characteristics of the tool.

The decision to use Drupal was based on an informal evaluation of the existing open source tools suitable for this purpose. The main requirements for the tool were determined to be:

- 1. Open source license,
- 2. Wide adoption, preferably in the scientific community,
- 3. Active development with a large developer base,
- 4. Broad availability of plugins and extensions,
- 5. Using an open source DBMS, preferably MySQL,
- 6. Written in Java, PHP or Perl,
- 7. Availability of features to easily convey content from different remote sources.

The tools investigated were:

- 1. WebGUI (Perl, http://www.webgui.org/)
- 2. Drupal (PHP, http://drupal.org/)
- 3. Magnolia (Java, http://documentation.magnolia-cms.com/)
- 4. Joomla! (PHP, http://www.joomla.org)

The considerations which led to the decision were basically the following:

- It was decided to use a tool that is written in a programming language familiar to the people in charge of building the site. This excluded WebGUI for us.
- Joomla! And Magnolia, although of excellent quality and widely adopted, are too much focused on a particular layout structure to produce a general purpose portal and were limited in their capability of future extensions and flexibility.

In addition, the system administrators at the Niels-Bohr Institute, where the site was to be hosted, recommended Drupal based on their own experience, leading to Drupal as the tool of choice.

Drupal is a free and open-source content management system (CMS) and content management framework (CMF) written in PHP and distributed under the GNU General Public License. According to Wikipedia, it is used as a back-end system for at least 2.1% of all websites worldwide, ranging from personal blogs to corporate, political, and government sites including whitehouse.gov and data.gov.uk. It is also used for knowledge management and business collaboration.

The standard release of Drupal, known as ,Drupal core', contains basic features common to content management systems. These include user account registration and maintenance, menu management, RSS feeds, page layout customization, and system administration. The Drupal

¹ http://drupal.org/

core installation can be used as a brochureware website, a single- or multi-user blog, an Internet forum, or a community website providing for user-generated content.

As of September 2012, there are about 18,200 free community-contributed addons, known as contrib modules, available to alter and extend Drupal's core capabilities and add new features or customize Drupal's behavior and appearance. Because of this plug-in extensibility and modular design, Drupal is sometimes described as a content management framework.

Although Drupal offers a sophisticated programming interface for developers, no programming skills are required for basic website installation and administration.

Structure of the QUROPE web site

The main web portal is currently divided into five domains²:

- 1. Quantum Information³: contains general, also specialized, material about QIPC-related issues
- 2. QUIE2T Coordination Action⁴: specific to the QUIE²T CA that acts as a maintainer for the whole web portal
- 3. Virtual Institutes⁵: contains material pertaining to the work of the four Virtual Institutes
- 4. QIPC Projects⁶: the part of the web portal where other QIPC related projects may register
- 5. FP7⁷: contains information about the EC funding schemes and the seventh framework in particular

These domains are accessible via the principal navigation menu on top of each page of the site.

In general, every page on the whole <u>qurope.eu</u> domain is divided into three main areas:

- 1. The navigation menu on the left. It contains sub-menus and links to specific pages. Its contents are specific to the current domain and context that is being browsed.
- 2. The main content box in the center. Any content is displayed in this area.
- 3. The information box on the right. It mainly contains the login area and some page-specific information, e.g. news boxes etc. Within the login area, there is also some account information and site documentation accessible from this box.

² Some screenshots of these pages are given in the report on deliverable D3.2.1.

³ http://qurope.eu/qipc

⁴ http://gurope.eu/quie2t

⁵ http://gurope.eu/vi

⁶ http://qurope.eu/projects

⁷ http://qurope.eu/fp7

Current Features

The web site currently offers the following features²:

- An open registration service, any user can register and start submitting content to the site
- A huge collection of relevant data bases⁸, like news, events, jobs, publications, research groups, etc.
- Search function, revision control
- Discussion forums⁹, publicly available (only registered users can participate)
- On-line maintenance of the QUROPE mailing list¹⁰, any registered user is automatically subscribed to the list
- Collection of news feeds¹¹ from interesting sites
- A hosting service for other QIPC projects, including advanced features like intranet, discussion forums, atomated data aggregation (news, events, etc.)
- The whole QIPC Roadmap¹² is maintained on the QUIE²T web site, both its web and printable form. A printable pdf version can be obtained directly from the web source.
- The possibility to add webforms or application forms to web pages. This has been used by several projects for the organization of meetings or conferences (e.g. the first CHIST-ERA conference¹³), or for other application gathering (e.g. like the SOLID project for its training activities¹⁴). It is also used on the application page for the QUIE²T Quantum Envoy¹⁵.

The information exchange platform is entirely web based and can be administered remotely by any authorized administrator. The main "out" channel to distribute information to the QIPC community is the QUROPE mailing list, any registered user is automatically subscribed to the list. This year, about 48 messages have been distributed via that channel, i.e. almost one per week.

To receive information there are several possible channels, the most convenient way, apart from subscribing to the QUROPE mailing list, is to subscribe to one or several of the news feeds that are offered at the bottom of many relevant pages (eg for news or jobs announcements).

⁸ http://qurope.eu/db

⁹ http://qurope.eu/forum

http://qurope.eu/content/qurope-mailing-list

http://qurope.eu/aggregator

http://qurope.eu/content/Roadmap

http://qurope.eu/projects/chist-era/1st-chist-era-conference

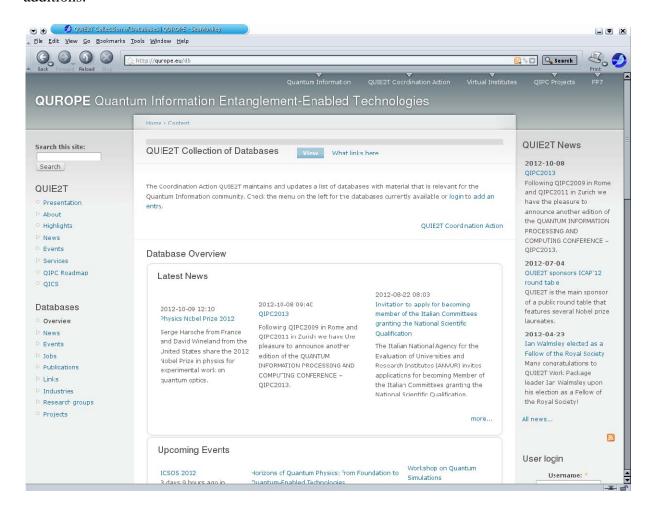
http://qurope.eu/content/applications-mutual-training-exchange

¹⁵ http://gurope.eu/guie2t/calls/guantum-envoy

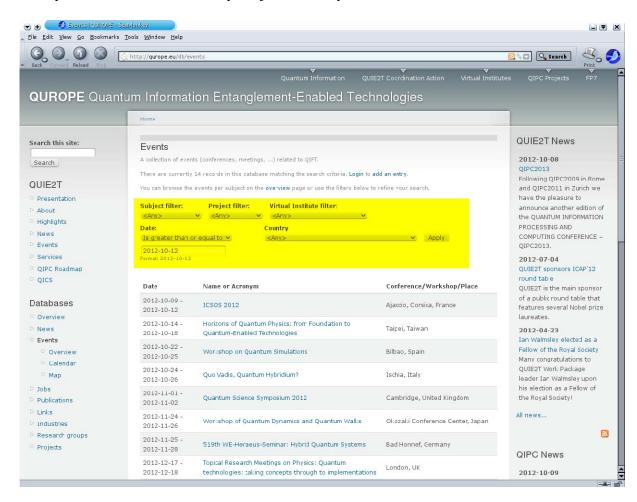
New Features

New features that have been added during this reporting period include:

• An overview page for the database collection⁸ with automatic updates for latest additions.



• Ability to filter most databases by subjects and keywords.



• Google map with locations of events ¹⁶.



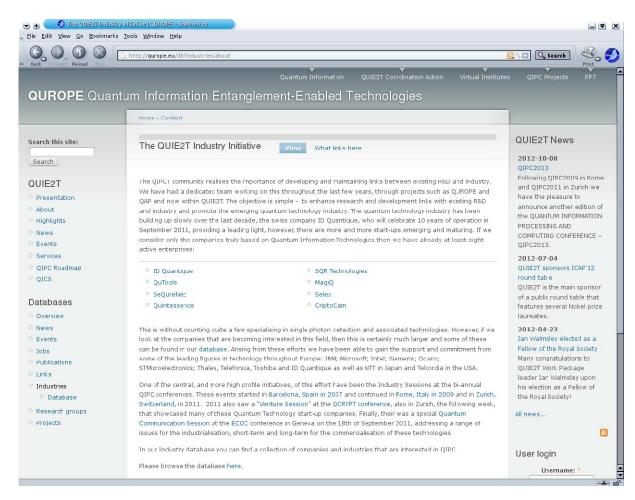
¹⁶ http://qurope.eu/db/events/map/

• Google map with locations of jobs ¹⁷.



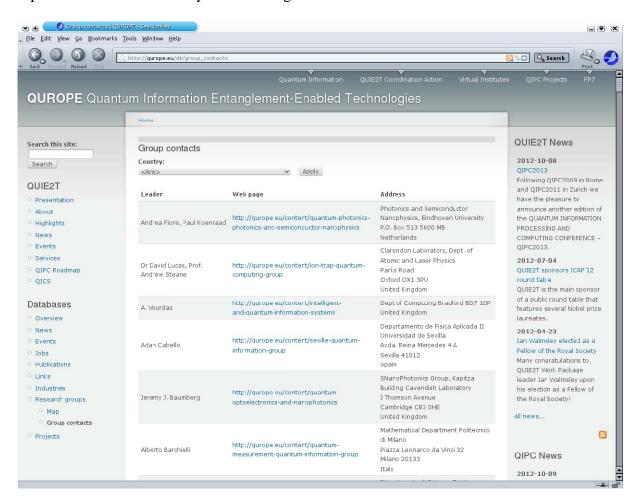
¹⁷ http://qurope.eu/db/jobs/map/

• An overview page for the industry database ¹⁸.



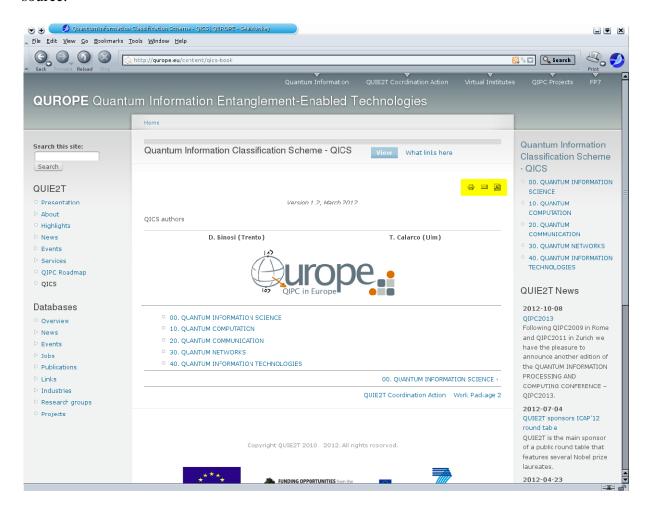
¹⁸ <u>http://qurope.eu/db/industries/about</u>

• A page to show the contact information for all the research groups in the database ¹⁹ (with additional information for authorized users, e.g. email addresses are only shown to users with corresponding permission). The whole set of contact data can be directly exported to an XLS Excel style sheet using a small icon on bottom of the table.



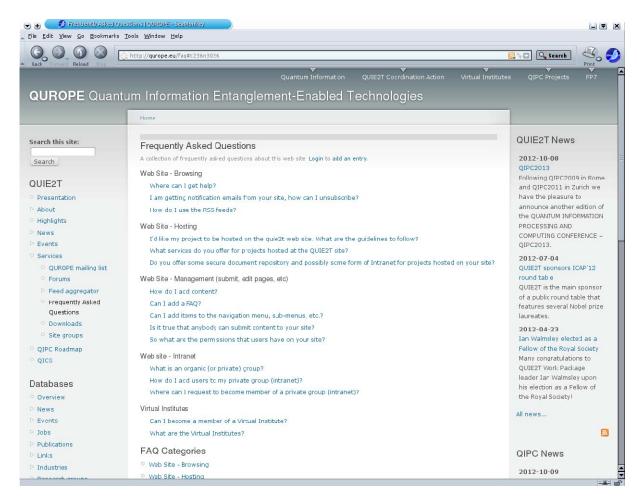
¹⁹ http://qurope.eu/db/group contacts/

• The Quantum Information Classification Scheme (QICS) is now maintained directly on the web site²⁰. A printable pdf version can be obtained directly from the web source.



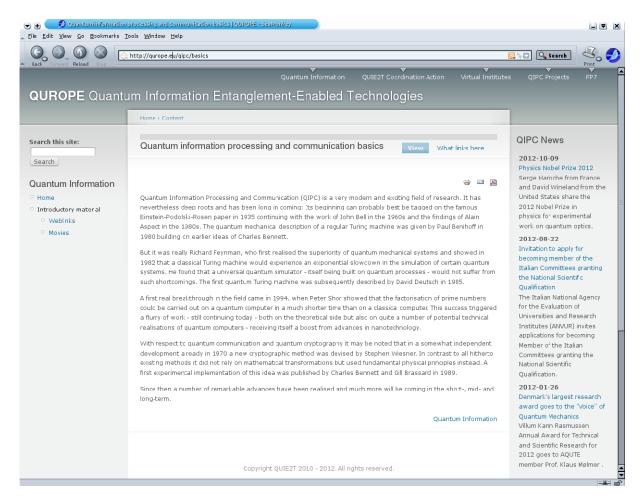
 $^{{\}color{red}^{20}}\,\underline{\text{http://qurope.eu/content/quantum-information-classification-scheme-qics/}$

• A collection of Frequently Asked Questions²¹ (FAQ) to guide new users of the site.



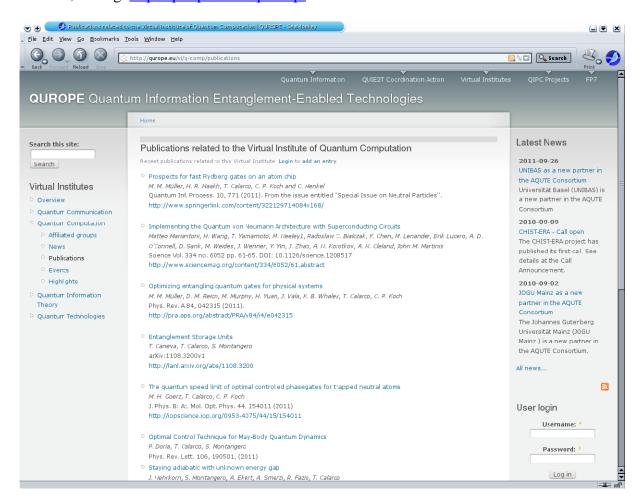
²¹ http://qurope.eu/faq/

• A collection of introductory material to quantum information ²².

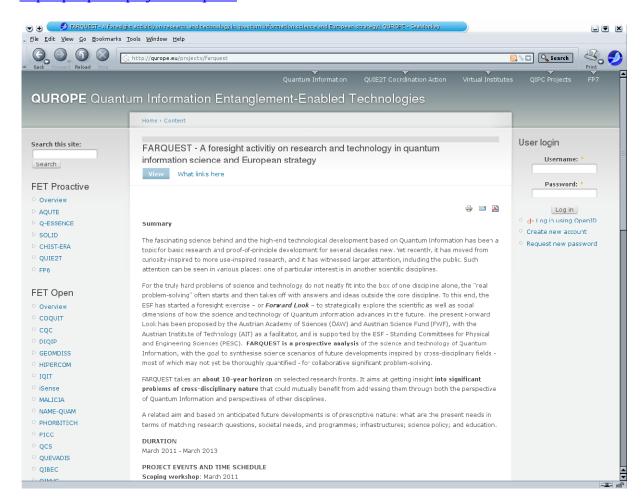


²² http://qurope.eu/qipc/basics/

• A collection of affiliated groups, publications, events and highlights for each Virtual Institute, see e.g. http://qurope.eu/vi/q-comp/.



• The ESF project FARQUEST has decided to host its web page at the QUROPE site: http://qurope.eu/projects/farquest/.



Web site Statistics

Finally, we are also collecting basic statistics about page hits on our site. In May 2011 we registered the site at Google Analytics²³, a web-based tool that generates detailed reports about visitors to a web site, providing elaborated info about their provenance and type of visit done. For instance it is possible to see how many visitors came from a search engine (and which keyword they used), their geographical provenance, how much time they spent on the site and the page they visited. It is also possible to set up goals (like viewing a particular page, or downloading a file) and assign a value to them, such to measure achievements of objectives. The qurope website has been connected to Google Analytics, with the aim of better understanding the web site usage trends and thus acquire suggestions for improving not only the web site itself but the whole dissemination strategy.

The Table below shows the statistics for the period May 1, 2011 – Mar. 1 2012. Note that the page views only include hits of the exact corresponding page, i.e. no sub-pages are taken into account. For instance, the top-level page of the qurope.eu site has been hit 3514 times in the given time period, i.e. about 12 hits per day.

The most popular pages on the site, apart from the the sub-project pages, are the job database and the QIPC Roadmap. Also the hosted projects can be proud of their statistics: since the creation of the web site, the <u>AQUTE</u> home page has been hit a total of 11064 times (5089 last year), the <u>Q-ESSENCE</u> home page 11414 (5036), the <u>QUIE²T</u> home page 8495 (3825) times and the <u>SOLID</u> home page 5882 (2660) times.

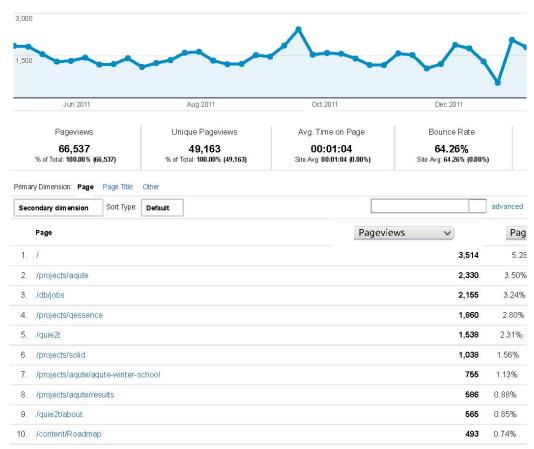


Figure 1 Google Analytics statistics overview report on the qurope.eu domain. The covered date range is 1.5.2011 - 1.2.2012.

_

²³ http://www.google.com/analytics/