



The Pittsburgh Independent Media Center Releases Crows 1.0

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA -- December 1, 2009 -- The Pittsburgh Independent Media center today announced the release of Crows 1.0, an Open Source website platform that was developed for the G-Infinity Media project and utilized for live coverage of the G20 Summit and Protests in Pittsburgh this past September.

What is Crows?

Crows is a Real Time Event Coverage and Communication System that allows people, groups, or organizations to easily create a Web presence for coverage of live events. With the ability for users to contribute to the site on the Internet or by using their mobile devices, website visitors are given up-to-the-minute information that is curated live from the event itself.

Features:

- A Crow website can easily be created and configured on your server in minutes.
- Real-time data pertaining to an event can be shown from any combination of built-in modules.
- Reporting features allow site visitors to make real-time field reports directly to your site with optional addresses, photos, videos, and links via the Web or mobile phone.
- Twitter integration allows display of sets of tags, keywords, and usernames, providing a main account for visitors to follow and easily introduce new tags for the event.
- Flickr integration allows the display and enlargement of photos from a user's account, favorites, or public photos with a common tag.
- Youtube integration shows a user's videos or playlist and allows the display of public videos based on tags.
- Podcasting provides a means to import a standard podcast feed into the site for easy on-site playback of audio and video files.
- Google maps integration capabilities are provided, allowing automatic geocoding to render any location-based data onto a configurable map.
- All modules interact in real time through a "report" link next to all data, allowing for crowd-sourced reporting by combining all chosen media types into a centralized map and reporting module.

- Mobile Site detection and rendering for all mobile devices is provided, including field reporting.
- Re-captcha integration is provided for spam prevention.
- Privacy settings allow for public reporting, or limit to private reporting through a password protected page. Malicious user reports can be removed from the site by the owner.
- The site is easily styled and made unique with your custom logos, text, images, colors, or CSS style rules.

Availability:

Crows 1.0 is available now, as an open sourced project on GitHub, it may be downloaded for free from our Website at <http://crowsne.st>. There you will also find a tutorial video for setting up your first Crow.

About the Pittsburgh Independent Media Center:

The Pittsburgh Independent Media Center is a voluntary collective dedicated to serving the local community with a system for disseminating print and online news. We strive to cover the issues and events ignored by mainstream media, and also those issues that mainstream media covers with the inherent bias of a news organization run as a business. We believe that the job of disseminating information does not belong to a privileged class of reporters and editors, but to everyone. It is our duty as citizens to act as journalists so that the public knows the truth in every instance, not just when the truth is to our political and economic rulers' advantage. We seek to be an inclusive organization which will grow as a community, and not as a hierarchy.

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