

Saturday, January 29, 2005

Synching iTunes with rsync

I have an XP box that acts mostly as a uPNP media server for the Philips Streamium and also serves as the server for digital cameras and the other mp3 players. However, since getting the Powerbook and now the iShuffle I have been using iTunes on my Powerbook to manage my mp3's. So the problem was that I wanted to be able to easily update my XP box with the iTunes music library from my Powerbook and let Christine update her iRiver player from it. With the Windows version of iTunes installed and the UMS firmware for Christine's iRiver 390T it is easy to use iTunes to populate the iRiver. The tricky part was synchronizing the libraries including the ratings and play counts. I marked my Windows iTunes folder as shared along with my music folder. I have these on separate drives. If your music folder is in your iTunes directory you could simplify this script a bit:

No iframe support? You can see the code at <http://lerdorf.com/synci.phps>

When you run this it makes your Windows iTunes look exactly like your OSX iTunes by mounting the Windows shares, copying over the hdfm file, munging the paths in the XML file and rsyncing the music folder which means you will lose any library properties local to your Windows box. I would also suggest exiting iTunes on both machines before running this script and synching your clocks from an ntp server. The clock on my XP box drifts badly so I had to add --modify-window to the rsync command.

It should be simple to reverse the script if you want your Windows iTunes to be the master, and with a bit of work you could probably make it go in both directions. But this serves my needs nicely.

Posted by Rasmus in Audio/Video at 10:50

What's up with that Yahoo "related search" thing?
Anonymous on Feb 5 2005, 11:08

It's a new Yahoo service that tries to be smart about picking search terms out of the context you send it. So instead of you trying to come up with search terms yourself, it is automated. I have written a plugin for Serendipity (s9y.org) which implements this allowing you to configure how much context from your entries you want to use (indicated by the highlighted area when you mouseover the search thing), how many results to show in the popup and also the ability to inject some context to try to help improve relevancy. In my case I add "gadgets" to my context. If you click through the popup to the "Show all related results" you will see the derived search terms at the top and you can toggle the various ones off and see how the results change.
Anonymous on Feb 5 2005, 11:14

Ah. Do you think Yahoo will ever start a paying program like Adsense?
Anonymous on Feb 5 2005, 15:41

I honestly have no idea. Doesn't seem like it would be that hard to do on the Overture platform. However, despite some of the results you get from the Y!Q popup, they aren't actually supposed to be ads. Some of the links look a bit like ads, but they are just the sort of links that tend to trickle up in the context of reviewing gadgets.
Anonymous on Feb 5 2005, 16:24

Which plugin did u use to get that color coded box with V-scrollbars. Only one i know about is Code Highlight (<http://www.chroder.com/archives/2005/04/16/wordpress-codehighlight-plugin/>) for wordpress.

Can u please tell me how did u achieve this in serendipity
Thank you in advance
Anonymous on Jun 19 2005, 03:18