



ISS Institute for Software Systems
in Business, Environment and Administration

Student Price EnviroInfo 2012

**Towards more Transparency in
Supporting a Green Web
Firefox Add-on “Green Power Indicator”**

Eva Kern, Kai Benjamin Heinz,
Tim Hiller, Timo Johann

Umwelt-Campus Birkenfeld
FACHHOCHSCHULE TRIER

The project “Green Software Engineering” (GREENSOFT) is sponsored by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research under reference 17N1209. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of the authors and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.



Outline

- I. Introduction
- II. Green Power Indicator – Under the Hood
- III. Conclusion & Outlook
- IV. Bonus: About the Environmental Campus Birkenfeld



I. Introduction






An user can manage the energy consumption of his own PC. In order to save energy, he can turn-off the computer or replace parts by more energy-efficient ones. However, the user has totally no control over the energy consumption of the www. He/She does not even realize that energy is needed for hosting a web-page. To make the user aware of this fact, we developed the Green Power Indicator, which visualizes that energy is needed for the currently displayed website.



II. Green Power Indicator – Under the Hood















ISS Institute for Software Systems
in Business, Environment and Administration

Characteristics

- Icon represents power quality
- Central list of eco-friendly ISPs
- Quality classes:
 - **A**: specialized green power providers
 - **B**: energy supplier with eco-power rate
 - **C**: weak information of their eco-power




 GPI active	 Energy quality A
 GPI inactive	 Energy quality B
 Error	 Energy quality C
 HTTPS connection	 Energy quality unknown



Umwelt-Campus Birkenfeld
FACHHOCHSCHULE TRIER


6

The Green Power Indicator is basically an icon-button located close to the address-bar of the firefox browser (or somewhere else, however the user wants to have it). It displays the energy quality of the servers energy provider. The energy quality is divided into three classes where A is the best and C the worst. C still represents some kind of eco-power. The information are stored on a centralized database.



ISS Institute for Software Systems
in Business, Environment and Administration


Functionality



```
graph LR; A[website's domain] --> B[server query]; B --> C[IP address]; C --> D[database query]; D --> E[information]; E --> F[smiley face user];
```

Information:

- Internet provider
- Electricity provider
- Quality class
- Links to more information

 Umwelt-Campus Birkenfeld
FACHHOCHSCHULE TRIER

7

PostgreSQL-Database

Application Server: Zope-based, uses Plone as CMS

Object orientated language Python for Plone programming

The response from that DB-server contains multiple information such as the quality class, the provider, and their energy supplier.



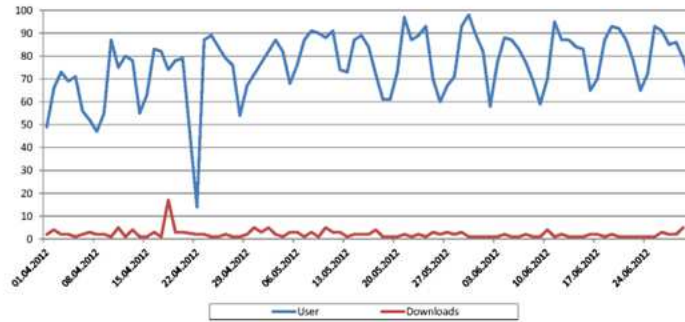
Technical Aspects

- Mozilla Firefox extension:
 - XUL for user interface
 - JavaScript for functionality
- Eco ISPs database
 - Providers in quality classes
 - Statistical data about the requests of green vs not-green websites





Statistics



- Overall (December 2010 to June 2012):
 - About 2000 downloads
 - 82 average daily users



III. Conclusion & Outlook





Conclusion, Potentials & Outlook

- Green Power Indicator as one of the different activities to support the movement to a greener Web
 - Allows to take a look behind the webpage (transparency)
 - Allows to choose between “green” and “grey” sites
- Next steps / further ideas:
 - establishment of a community
 - transferring to other platforms
 - development of Green Websites Label
- social rethinking about the energy consumption of the World Wide Web



IV. Bonus: About the Environmental Campus Birkenfeld





Branch of the University of Applied Sciences Trier, Germany





About the Environmental Campus Birkenfeld

- Since 1996:
 - Environmental Planning / Environmental Technology
 - Environmental Business / Environmental Law

- Computer Sciences:
 - Applied Computer Science
 - Media Computer Science
 - Economics and Environmental Computer Sciences

- Multiple research projects



Students Projects

- Bachelor's degree as well as Master's degree:
 - 2 practical projects (min.)
 - Workload: 180 hours
- Green Power Indicator: Firefox Add-on
 - Self-management of the different project teams
 - Different versions of the Add-on
- Tools:
 - Project management: Redmine, SVN
 - Development environment: Eclipse IDE, ANT





Thank you for your attention!



Feel free to contact us:

Kai Benjamin Heinz

k.heinz@umwelt-campus.de

Trier University of Applied Sciences
Environmental Campus Birkenfeld
Institute for Software Systems
Germany

SPONSORED BY THE



Federal Ministry
of Education
and Research

greensoft@umwelt-campus.de
<http://www.green-software-engineering.de>

Ref.-No. 17N1209

