

CASE STUDY

Developing complex application for next generation online service

Huge amounts of web content are coming up each day due to the social media revolution we're all living. Therefore it becomes harder and harder for users to keep pace and still know what's "hot" on the web in real time. What everybody else is watching? Thus the need for a service that would pinpoint for both information consumers and publishers what most users access at any given moment. [LiveHIT](#) is such a Web 2.0 service and Outsourcing Factory backed up the complex technology behind this brand new bold project.

The Client

[LiveHIT](#) is a dynamic web-based start-up company, headquartered in Palo Alto, California, that has recently launched, under the same brand name, a revolutionary Social Discovery Service showcasing who and what's hot in the moment across the social web. As our client calls it, [LiveHIT](#) is a Live Personalized Social Navigation Engine - a Custom GPS System to discover contextually relevant rich media content and people.

The Idea

[LiveHIT](#) intended to provide a new extension to social search and discovery by using user-powered navigation paths to surface what's being viewed live in the moment it's happening. The platform collects valuable cross-network data and uses velocity-based tracking and dynamic-predictive modeling to gauge the propensity of something to become hot. This allows partners to program their sites and target ads in real-time. [LiveHIT](#) is an aggregation hub connecting publishers, content providers, ad-networks, and distributors around social discovery and data. The end result is a mission-critical Social Discovery System that drives distribution, engagement, and monetization to partners while providing a core discovery service for end-users

The Challenge

Outsourcing Factory had to come up with a technological solution that would back up all requirements of this bold project.

Most challenges encountered by our team were related to scalability. [LiveHIT](#) means tracking huge amounts of data. The service can actually measure how many users are concurrently consuming content right **at the moment** as it's happening. In other words, [LiveHIT](#) can track down to the song or video level or any other piece of content and can see how many people are interacting with actual pieces of content. Third party sites have a problem with resources and being able to keep up with programming. Most third party sites usually program their content on a daily or even a weekly basis. [LiveHIT](#) can actually help them **program in real time**. Real time means 2 to 5 minutes in terms of how often [LiveHIT](#) updates its content.

All these capabilities mean dozens of servers and loads of data in the databases.

The Solution

The Outsourcing Factory team of programmers and [QA testers](#) worked on the two main components of the product: LiveTAG (the data collecting module) and [LiveMAP](#) (the rich-media interface showing the most viewed pieces of content in real time).

[LiveHIT](#) is designed as a flexible platform that can be customized on a partner-basis and so, when it's integrated with partners, the solution can help them reorganize content on the website and show it to their users in a more meaningful way, all in real time.

The Outsourcing Factory team managed to set up the entire complex solution in only eight months to the public Alpha version launch. Based on a [methodology](#) of constantly improving the developing, our team had frequent meetings with our client's one, some as close as two days apart.

Technologies

- Java
- MySQL
- Amazon S3 & EC2
- Lighthttpd
- PHP
- Linux

The Results

[LiveHIT](#) has been officially and successfully [launched at the 2008 TechCrunch50 conference](#) in San Francisco, a famous start-up launching event in the United States. Our client has already signed

partnerships with major web publishers in the entertainment area like MTV, Piczo, Topix or Comedy.com.

Our team is still working on developing further features to enhance the [LiveHIT](#) service. It will soon feature a new reporting portal for live administration that will enable publishers and advertisers to access detailed reports on the traffic for each piece of content on their websites and adjust their content and advertising messages accordingly.