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The Open Source Evaluation Project at the National Archives

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24 June 2003

Stance

- All new IT systems in government departments must be e-GIF compliant
- E-GMS compliant as well
- Assumes XML wherever (in any layer) practical
- Government wants departments to investigate OSS wherever practical

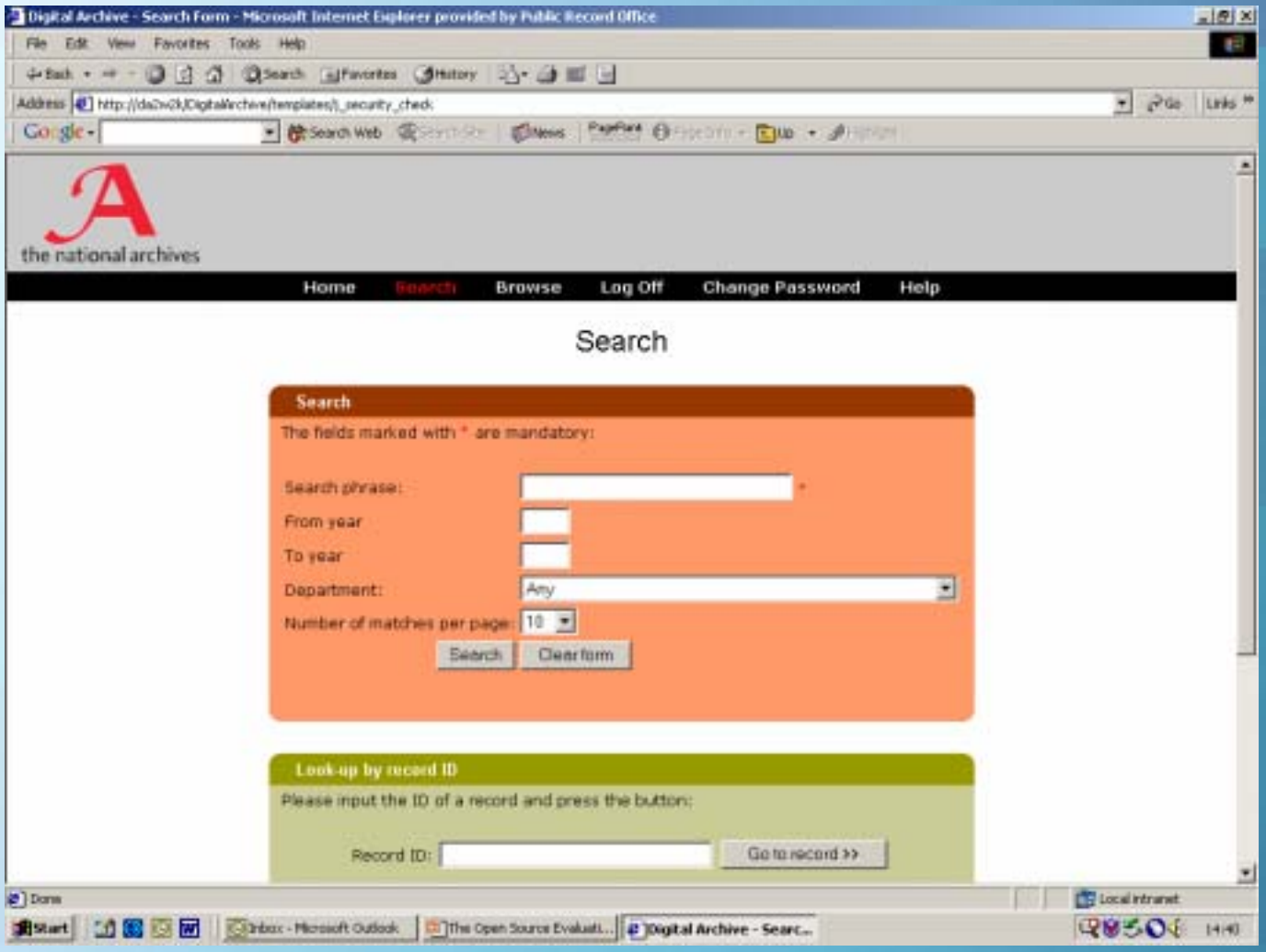
Archivists Proactive Role

- Archivists need to anticipate technology dependencies for future transfers
- Need to influence (if possible) technologies adopted by creators so that…
- Costs controlled and speed of availability supported

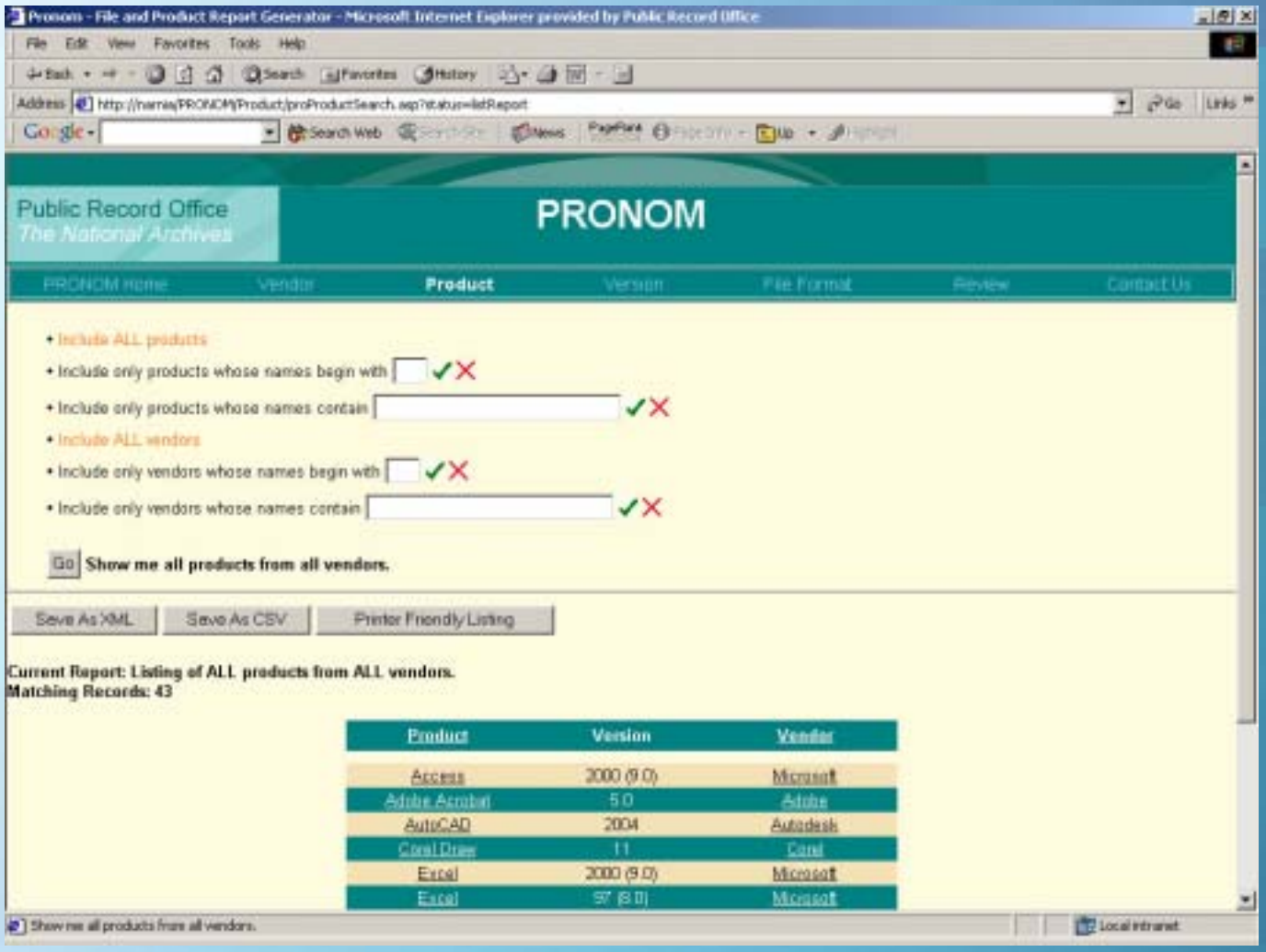
Our Approach To Digital Preservation

- Practical approach taken
  - Digital Archive built
  - PRONOM released internally
- Both are e-GIF compliant
- Both use XML
- And both have thrown up issues relating to file format longevity

Archive Search Screen



PRONOM Search Screen



PRONOM XML Schema

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-16" ?>
- <PRONOM-Report xmlns:rs="urn:schemas-microsoft-com:rowset" xmlns:z="#RowsetSchema">
  - <report_product_detail>
    - <Product>
        <ProductID>20</ProductID>
        <ProductName>Excel</ProductName>
        <VendorID>1</VendorID>
        <VendorName>Microsoft</VendorName>
        <Version>2000 (9.0)</Version>
        <SupportName>Microsoft</SupportName>
        <SupportID>1</SupportID>
        <ThirdPartySupportID />
        <ThirdPartySupportName />
        <DefaultExtensionID>132</DefaultExtensionID>
        <DefaultExtension>xls</DefaultExtension>
        <FileTypeID>32</FileTypeID>
        <FileTypeDescription>Microsoft Excel 2000 Workbook</FileTypeDescription>
        <Category>Spreadsheet</Category>
        <CategoryID>3</CategoryID>
        <MediaFormat>CD-ROM</MediaFormat>
        <MediaFormatID>1</MediaFormatID>
        <ReleaseDate>10 Jun 1999</ReleaseDate>
        <WithdrawnDate>30 Jun 2006</WithdrawnDate>
        <CopyrightOwner>Microsoft</CopyrightOwner>
        <CopyrightStatus>Copyright Owner</CopyrightStatus>
```

Trials And Pilots

- The need to resolve
  - File format longevity
  - And other issues discovered
- Have led to:
  - Trials and pilots programme
  - Work on open source products have been included

Open Source trials

- PHP Nuke
- Post Nuke
- MySQL
- Dspace
- E-Prints
- Image Magick
- Open Office
- SuSE Linux 8.2
- PHP MySQL asset tracking application

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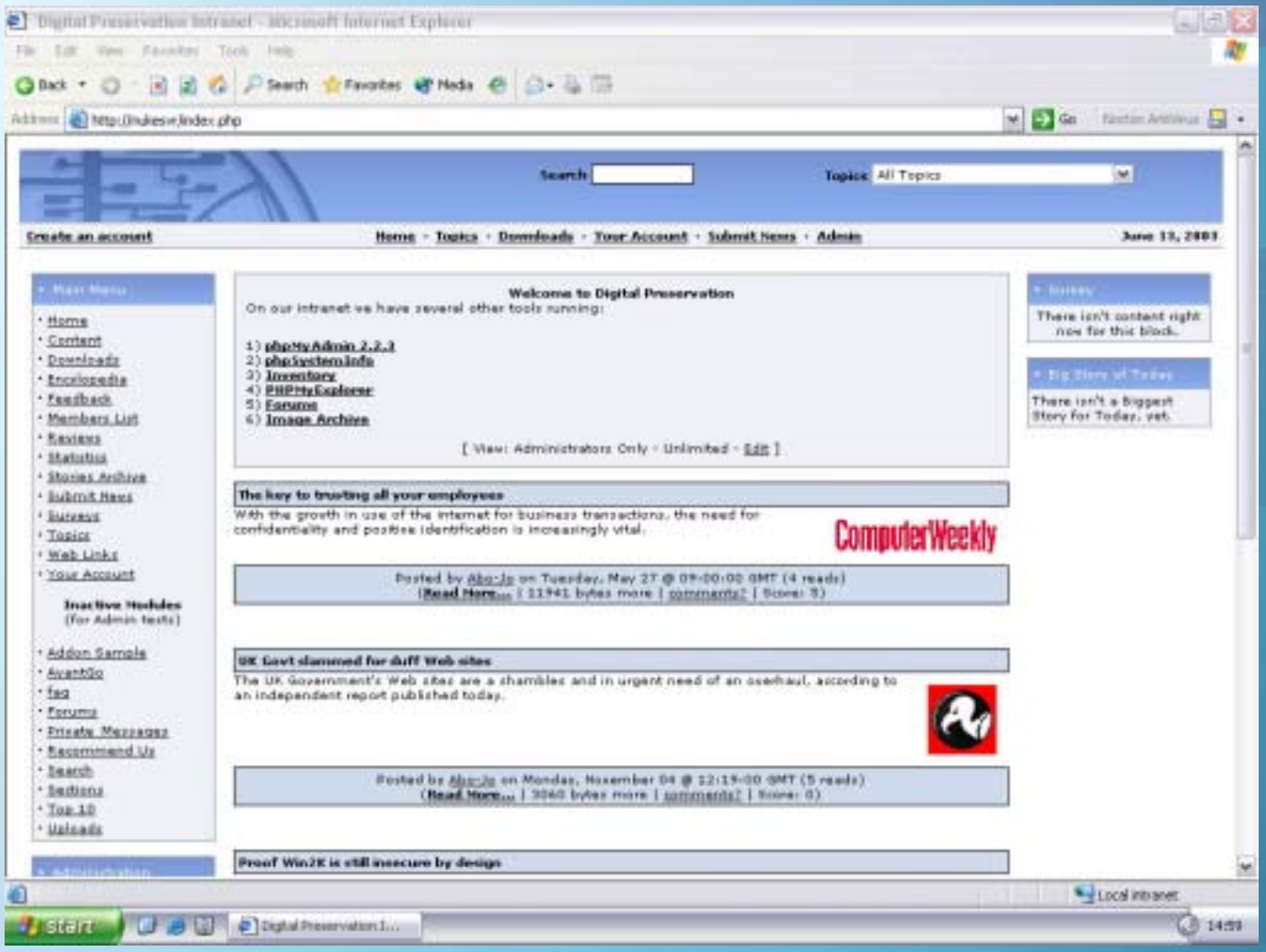
PHP Nuke & Post Nuke



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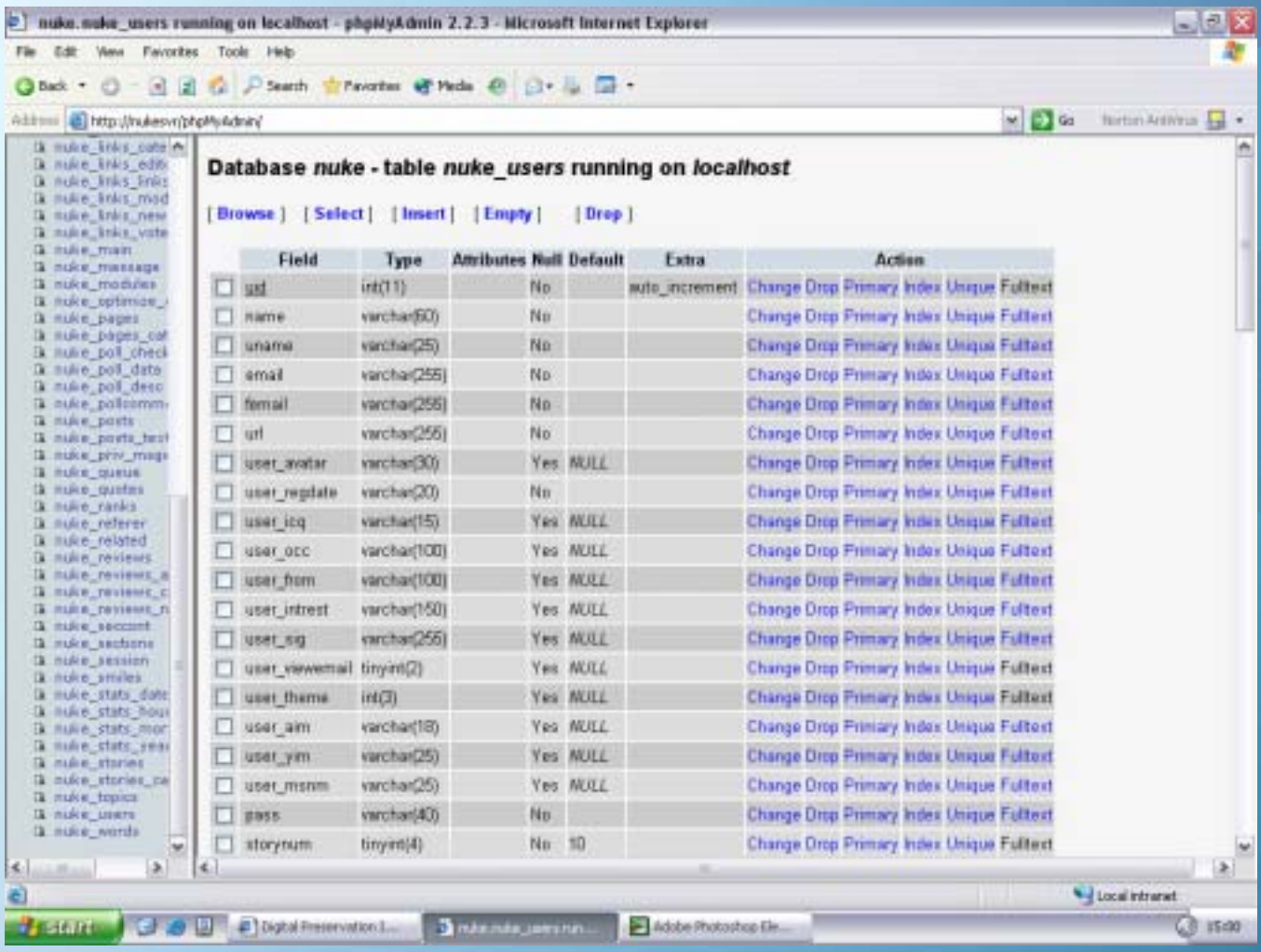
MySQL Database



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DSpace

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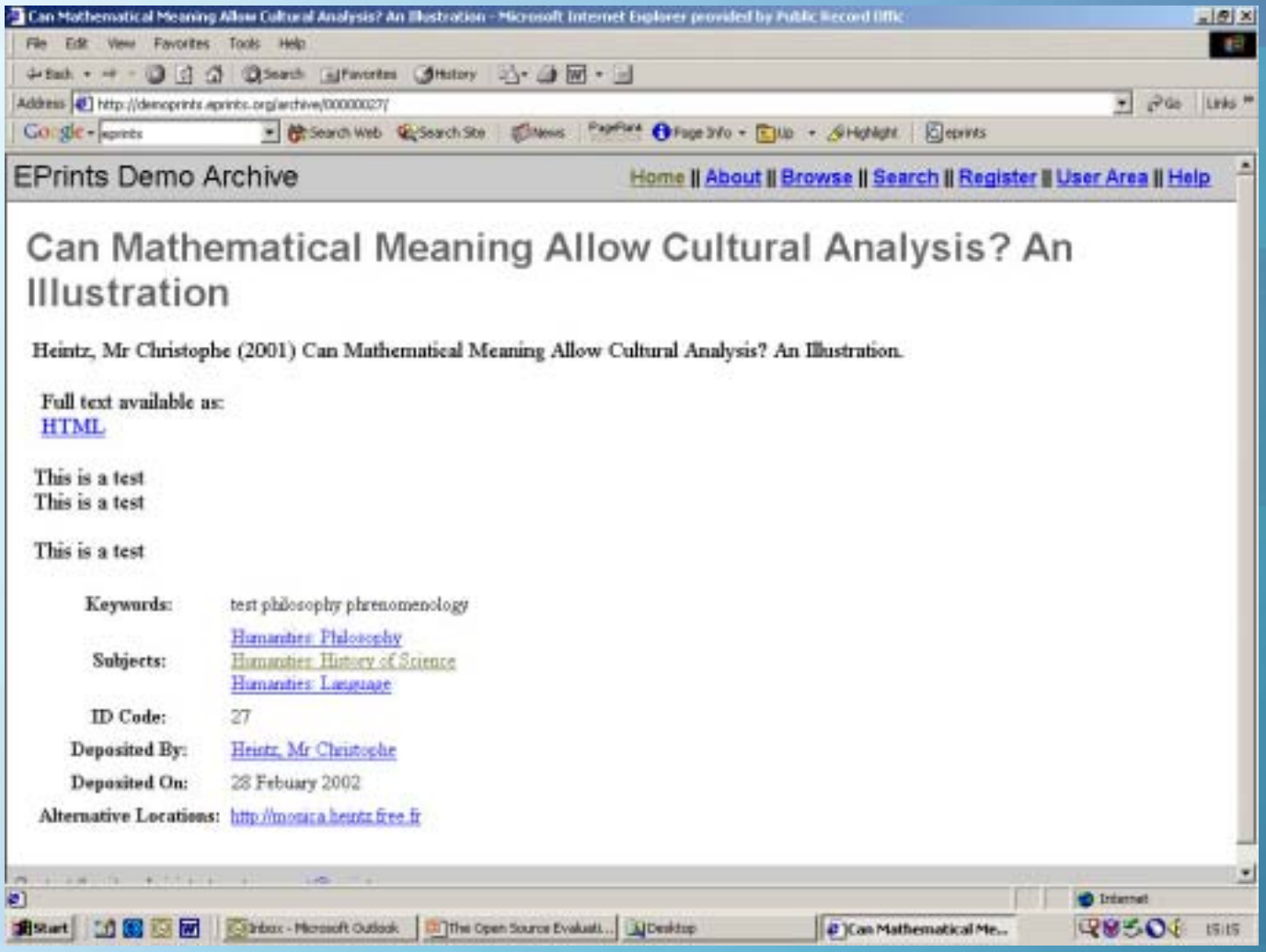
EPrints



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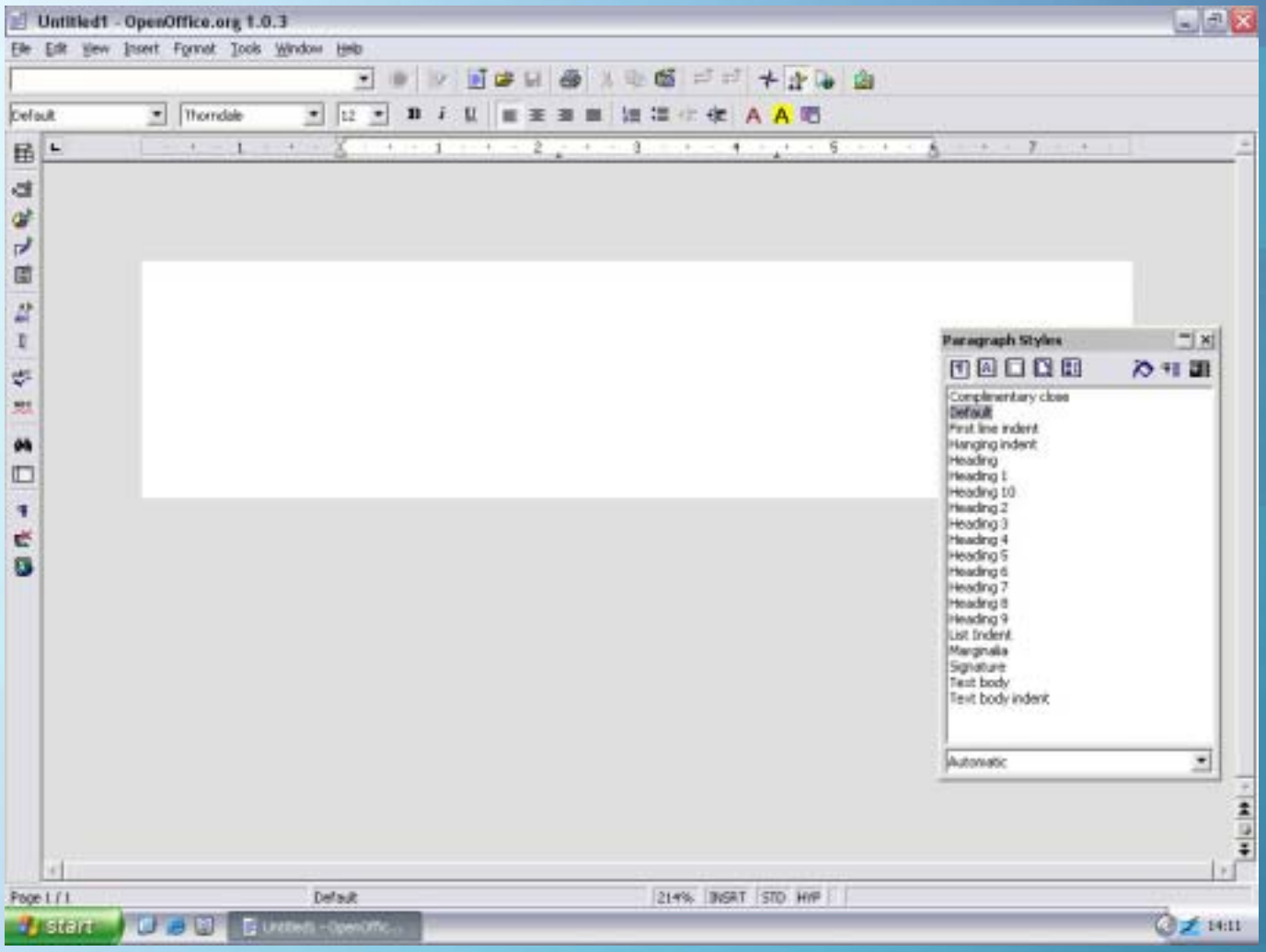
Open Office



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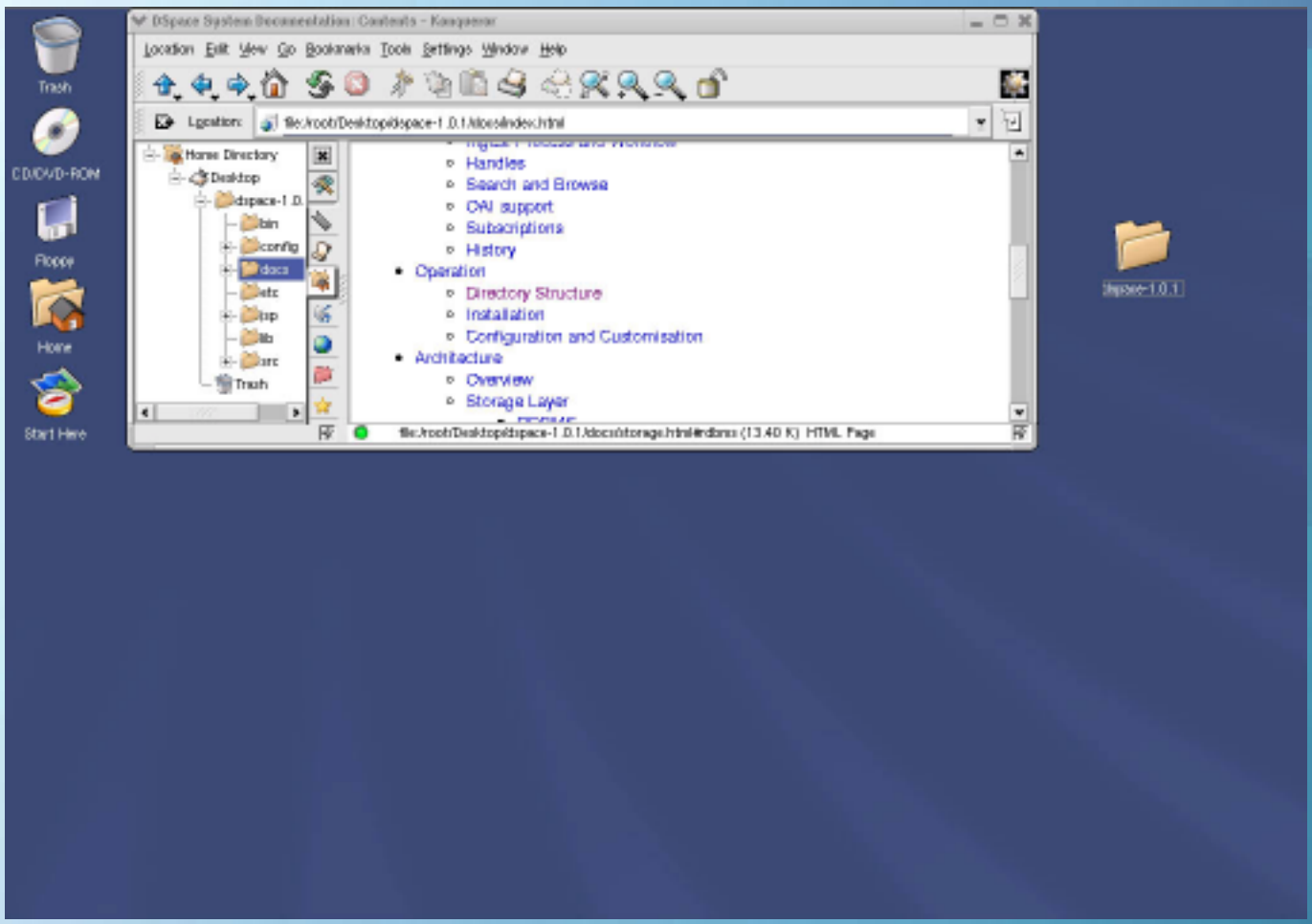
RedHat 9.0 Linux



SuSE 8.2 Linux

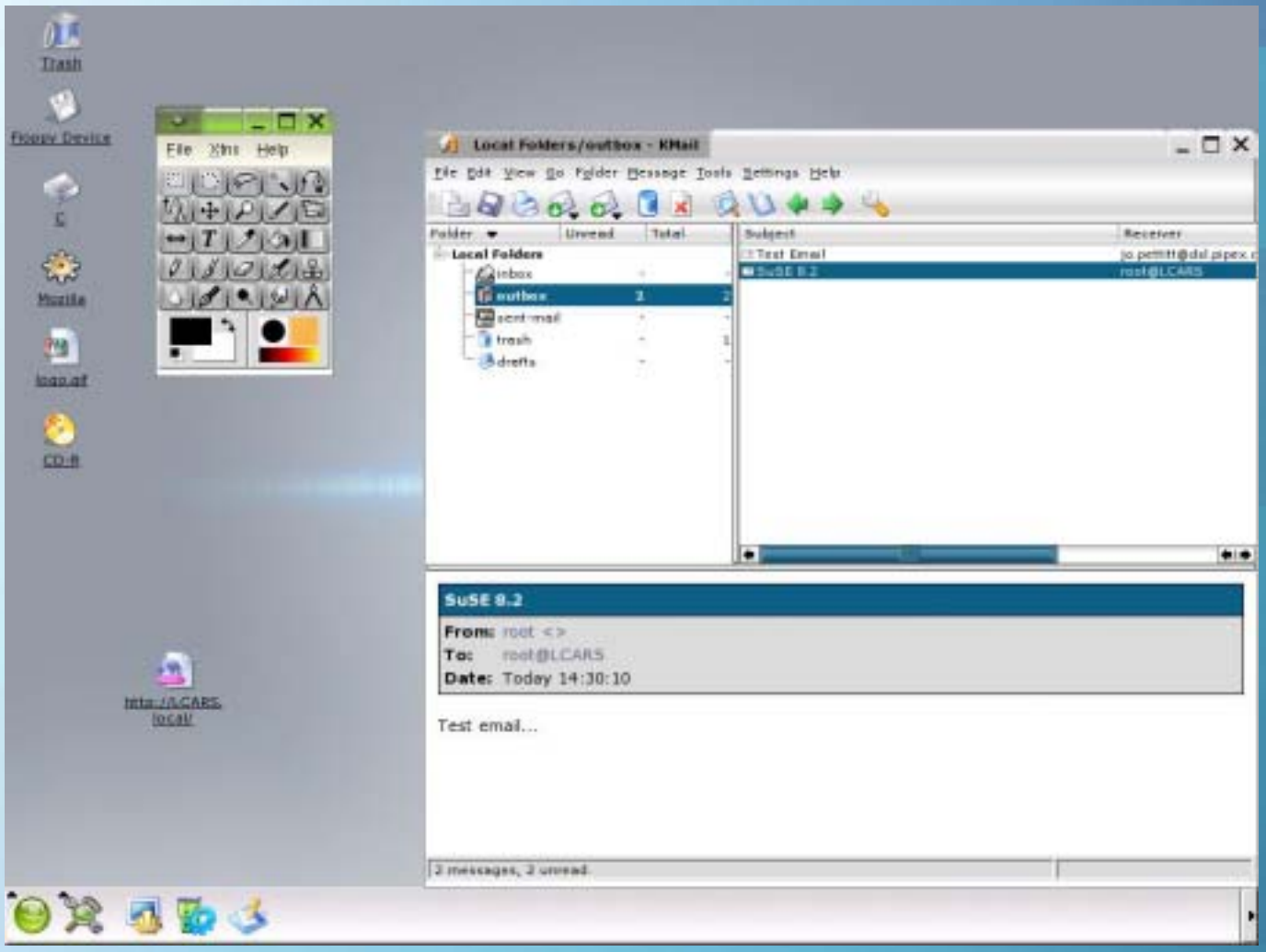


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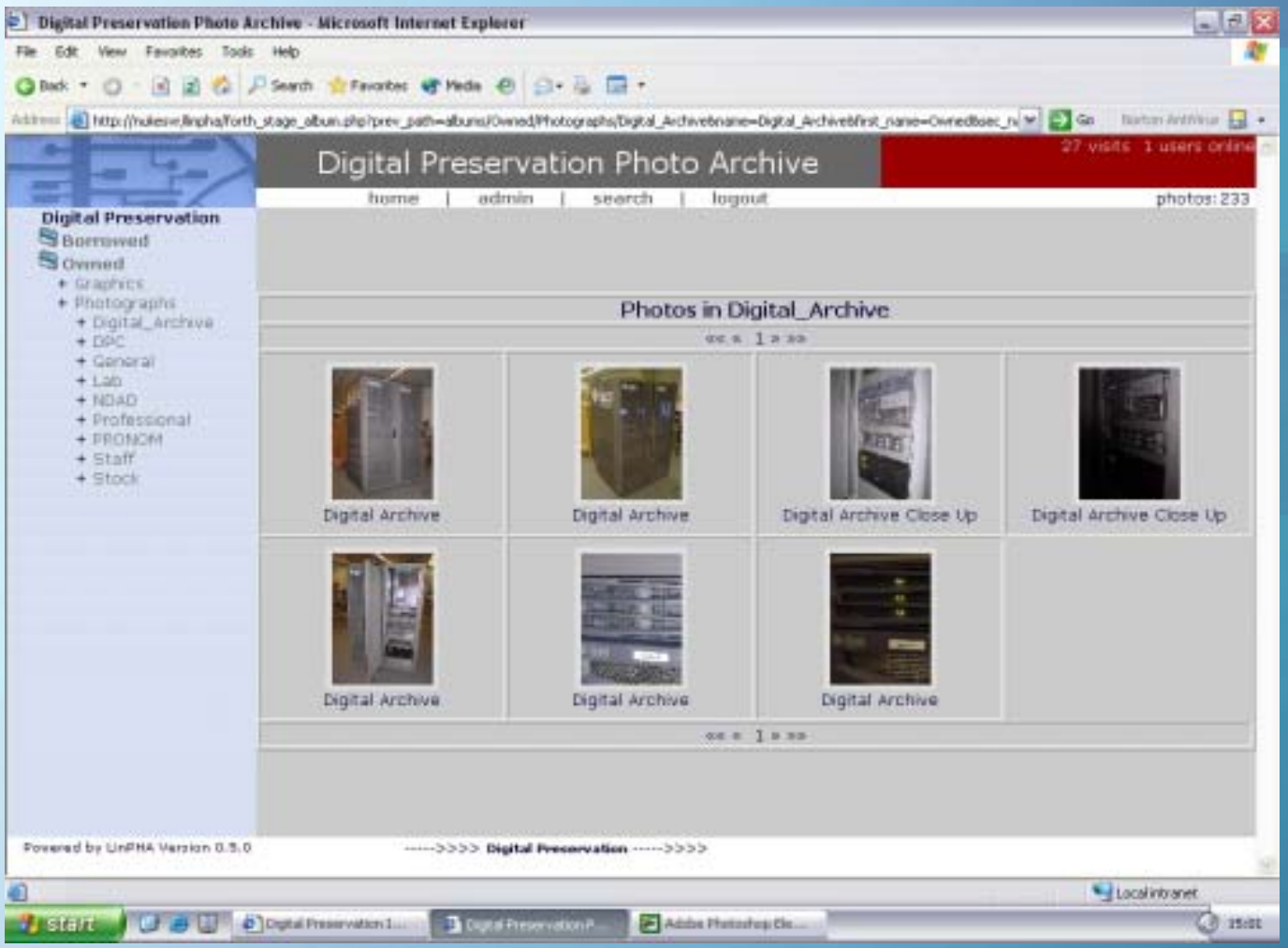
Image Magick



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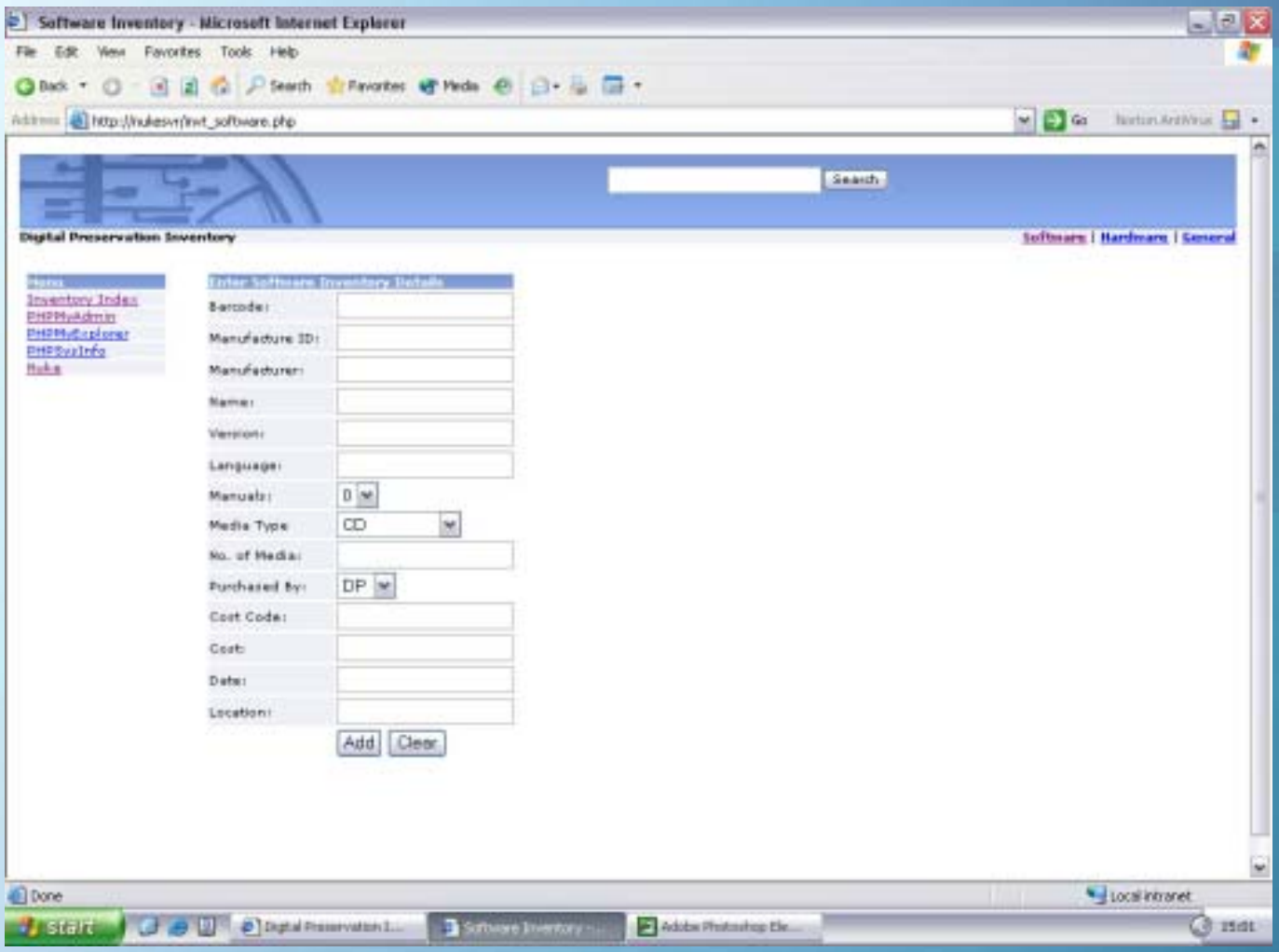
PHP MySQL Asset Tracking



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Upside

- Cheap/free
- Code is open
- No hidden spyware
- No strict EULAs

Downside

- Some immature releases
- Poor support
- Difficult to set-up
- Poor documentation

Thank you!