

Creating VAStGoodies.com

a VA Smalltalk™ Seaside User Experience

Adriaan van Os, Webinar, April 21



About Me

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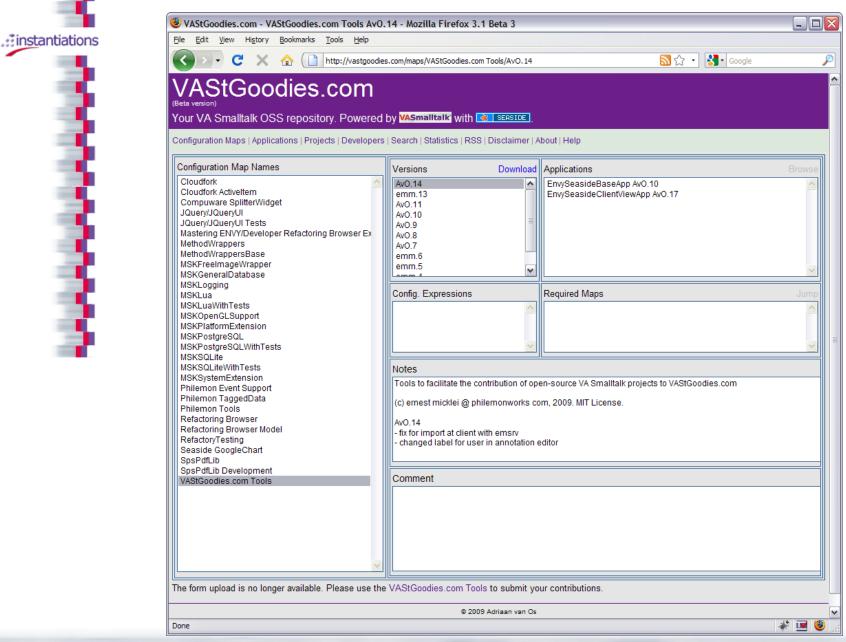
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- ..am Adriaan van Os
 - a3aan @ xs4all . nl
 - a3aan . st
- ..am working for Nationaal Spaarfonds
- ..am working with Smalltalk since 1995
 - VA Smalltalk, VisualWorks, GemStone/S and (a bit of) Squeak





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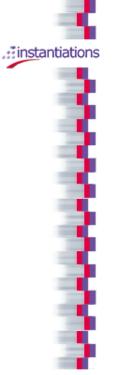




Why VAStGoodies.com?

- Two goals
- Two problems
 - One technical
 - One non-technical





The Two Goals

- Facilitate VA Smalltalk OSS
- Help building a more active and more visible VA Smalltalk community



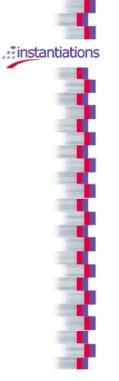
The Technical Problem

- None of the public open source code management systems support our native format (well)
- Code is scattered around
- Dead URLs
- Hard to share fixes and updates



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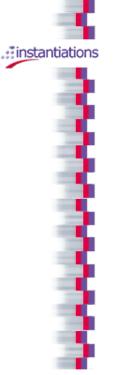
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The Non-technical Problem

The VA Smalltalk community (vendor and customers) is relatively silent and invisible





One Solution

- VAStGoodies.com tries to solve both problems and to help realize both goals by offering..
 - ..a native format source code repository
 - ..a repository that is indexable by search engines
 - ..a web site that interconnects other web sites





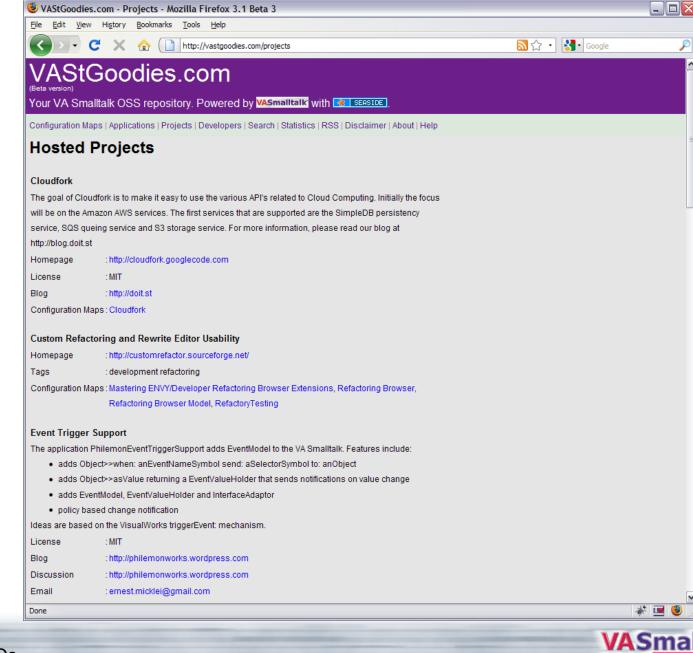
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- VAStGoodies.com is NOT a hideout, it is a hangout
- Make your projects more visible
 - Blog / Planet Smalltalk http://planet.smalltalk.org
 - Google Code http://code.google.com
 - SourceForge http://sourceforge.net
 - Stack Overflow http://stackoverflow.com

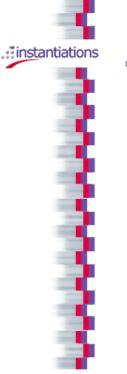




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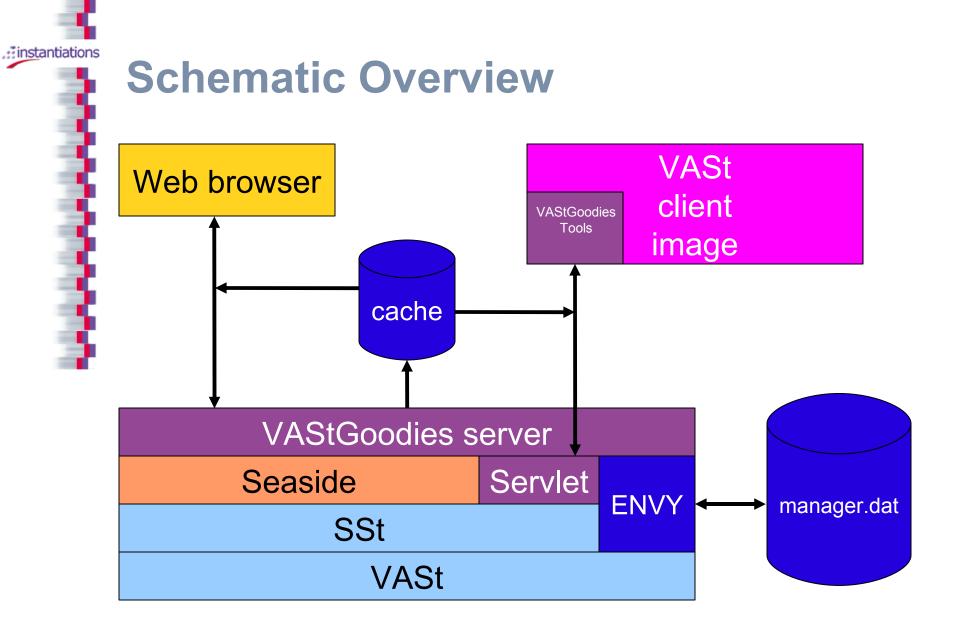




The Philosophy

- Keep things simple
 - Stick to the ENVY model with Configuration Maps and Applications
 - You want to be sure what exact version of the software you are using
 - Stick to the ENVY user model
 - No need for additional user management at VAStGoodies.com





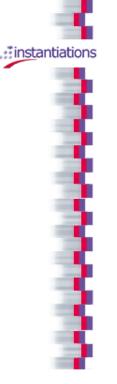




The Difficulties

- ENVY
- VASt 8.0 beta 1 / Seaside 2.9 alpha 1

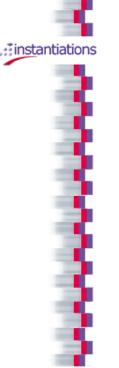




ENVY - The Difficulties

- The ENVY tools are single-user client tools
 - Many (modal) dialogues
 - Importing and exporting is blocking
- Connects to one repository but we don't want all Configuration Maps to be visible / accessible

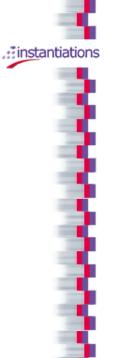




ENVY - The Solution

- Silence all dialogues
- Serialize all repository access
 - Semaphore
- Some caching, currently just
 - Names of visible Configuration Maps
 - Visible Configuration Map editions
 - Names of projects





ENVY - The Solution (cont'd)

- Downloading
 - Exports are kept
 - Exports are served by the web server



VASt 8.0 beta 1 – The Difficulties

- No continuations, no flow
- No mime types (required for uploading using an html form)
- No RSS
- No wiki component



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VASt 8.0 beta 1 – The Solution

- No continuation-passing style
 - Ugly, tedious code
 - Continuations will come later
- No Scriptaculous, but jQuery
 - jQuery has a nice and clean interface
 - jQuery is the becoming the standard



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- Additional porting from Squeak
 - jQuery / jQuery UI

(jQuery UI is currently not used at VAStGoodies.com)

- Mime types
- RSS
- TiniWiki



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Porting is about two things

- The VA Smalltalk Porting Layer
- The Squeak VAPackageExporter



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The VA Smalltalk Porting Layer

- Seaside brings all Smalltalk dialects a bit closer
 - Good for Smalltalk
 - Good for open source projects



The Squeak VAPackageExporter

- Part of a Squeak package to export Monticello based Squeak source code to various other Smalltalk dialects.
- The PackageExporter is originally written by Avi Bryant



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The Squeak VAPackageExporter (cont'd)

- John O'Keefe made a VA Smalltalk version
- Lukas Renggli and Adriaan van Os made a differences exporter
 - No updates with unchanged code
 - No unnecessary scratch editions
- John O'Keefe did further enhancements



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Using PackageInfo-Exporters

- Exporting
 - VAPackageExporter fileOutPackageNamed: aString
 - VAPackageExporter

fileOutPackageNamed: aString

deltaFrom: aVersionString

Importing

- File In
- EmFileOutInterface fileInSourceFrom (CfsReadFileStream open: aFilenameString)



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Porting Issues

- What to do with incompatibilities
 - **Example:** aNumber asInteger
 - Squeak truncates
 - VA Smalltalk rounds (ANSI)
 - Possible solution: aNumber rounded
- Fix the reference implementation, not the port
 - Discuss with the maintainer
 - Do it yourself



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Porting Issues (cont'd)

- Figuring out prerequisites
 - Trial and error
 - Look at the class WAPackage
 - Look at the method
 - VAPackageExporter>>prerequisites



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OSS/Porting Advice

- Use Slime
 - A Smalllint extension
 - Keeps track of non-portable classes
 - Should keep track of non-portable methods?
- Relate to the version id of the reference implementation



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Annotations

- Meta data of your project
 - License information
 - URLs to help to building a community around your project
 - Some additional information used to populate pages at VAStGoodies.com



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....instantiatio The VAStGoodies.com Tools Ş

- Built by Ernest Micklei
- A web service and client
 - Makes using VAStGoodies.com a breeze
 - Annotation Editor (forcing to enter license) information)
 - Importing and exporting directly from the image
 - Made form uploading obsolete





Edit Annotations for VAStGoodies.com Tools - AvO.14 _ D X VAStGoodies.com Developer Project VAStGoodies.com Tools - Av0.14 http://philemonworks.wordpress.com blogUrl discussionUrl http://www.instantiations.com/forum/viewforum.php?f= emailAddress ernest.micklei@gmail.com licenceType MIT licenceUrl http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MIT_License project VAStGoodies http://vastgoodies.com projectUrl repository, development tags Description Wiki syntax is allowed here This map provides you with tools to upload and download/import VisualAge for SI (c) Ernest Micklei, February 2009 < Ш > 0k Cancel

> VASmalltalk 2009 SUMMIT

Licensing – A Sidestep

- Be clear, or companies can't use it
- Choose one, or companies can't use it
- Keep it simple, choose MIT



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- Support for applications (likely)
- Code browsing
- Individual project pages
- Individual developer pages
- Tag cloud
- Searching
- Enhanced statistics



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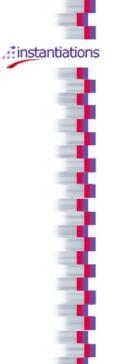
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Thanks

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- John O'Keefe of / and Instantiations
 - for backing VAStGoodies.com
- Lukas Renggli
 - for helping ease porting
- Ernest Micklei
 - for helping building VAStGoodies.com and creating the client
- Yuri Vrancken
 - for helping with the statistics charts
- Louis Andriese of Nationaal Spaarfonds
 - for offering free hosting of VAStGoodies.com





Q & A

Thanks for watching

- Mail a3aan @ xs4all . nl
- Web http://vastgoodies.com
- Blog http://a3aan.st/sunrise

