

“Free” Tools for SharePoint 2007 and WSS 3.0

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About Rob



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- Author
 - “ASP.NET 3.5 AJAX Unleashed”
 - “SharePoint 2007 Development Unleashed”
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WTF?: **W**hy **T**ools for **F**ree?

- Functionality *provided* by SharePoint vs. Functionality *needed* by the users/developers/admins
- Community, community, community!
- > 250 SharePoint-based projects on CodePlex
- Who wants to pay for functionality when you can get it for free with the source code?!

Categories for the tools

- Administrators
 - SUSHI
 - SharePoint Manager 2007 (SPM)
 - SP Features
 - Faceted Search
- Developers
 - WSP Builder
 - STSDev
 - SharePoint Designer Custom Activities
 - .NET Reflector
- Users
 - Community Kit for SharePoint—Enhanced Blog Edition
 - “Fantastic 40” Site Templates

SharePoint Utility with a Smart , Helpful Interface (SUSHI)

- SUSHI is a powerful, user-friendly SharePoint application enabling you to accomplish common SharePoint administrative and development tasks.
- You can think of SUSHI as a Swiss army knife for SharePoint.
- SUSHI Features
 - [Copy View](#)
 - Copy a view from one SharePoint list to another.
 - [Security Reports](#)
 - View all sites and lists a user has access to.
 - [Import Documents](#)
 - Upload entire file structures from a file share into a document library.
 - [Meta Data](#)
 - Get detailed information about metadata in a list. Move metadata from one column to another for all items in a list. And more.
 - [Backup](#)
 - Backup a site.
 - [Restore](#)
 - Restore site from backup.
 - [Profile Images Import](#)
 - Upload Profile Images and Apply them to User Profiles.
 - [Delete Old Documents](#)
 - Delete documents older than a given date. This feature can also be used to copy all files and folders of a document library to a file share.
 - [Bulk Site Creation](#)
 - Create a large number of subsites based on a site template.
 - [Bulk List Creation](#)
 - Create a large number of lists based on a list template.
 - [Bulk Webpart Customization](#)
 - If you have lots of sites with the same webpart(s) and want to make changes to all of them, this tool can help you customize all the webparts at once.
 - [Themes](#)
 - Apply a Theme to many sites at once.
 - [Email Test](#)
 - Send a test email to make sure outbound email is set up correctly.
 - [Help & Settings](#)
 - We said SUSHI was helpful, here is the proof.

SharePoint Manager 2007

- The SharePoint Manager 2007 is a SharePoint object model explorer.
- It enables you to browse every site on the local farm and view every property.
- It also enables you to change the properties **(at your own risk)**

SharePoint Features

- Developer-Oriented Features
 - **Global Web.config Feature**—This Feature uses a custom Feature Event Receiver to update the Web.config of all Web application across your farm. This feature applies some of the most requested modifications such as connectionStrings, appSettings, membership and providers to the Web.config files.
 - **3.5 Config Feature**—This Feature makes all the Web.config modification to support 3.5 framework so you can easily deploy the wonderful BluePrint demo.
 - **Ajax.Config Feature**—This Feature use a custom Feature Event Receiver to update the Web.config. This one can set up all the configuration to use Microsoft ASP.NET AJAX 1.0 into SharePoint Sites.
 - **Content Type Hierarchy**—This Feature presents the site content types in a hierarchical view.
 - **Debug Config Feature**—This Feature uses a custom Feature Event Receiver to update the Web.config. It can disable Custom Errors and enable Debugging And Stack Trace In WSS.
 - **Minimal Master**—This Feature adds a new master page to the gallery named "minimal.master". This master page removes all of the chrome and is a good starting point for your own master page. This feature simply packages the minimal master page found in the SDK <http://msdn2.microsoft.com/en-us/library/aa660698.aspx>.
 - **Placeholder Master**—This Feature adds a new master page to the gallery named "Placeholder.master". This master page shows all of the placeholders and their content in a table structure so you can easily see what content is rendered in which placeholder.
 - **Minimal Publishing Site**—This Feature adds a new site template with the minimal items necessary to support publishing. Install and activate the feature to use the new template.
 - **Theme Changer and ThemeChangerStaple**—This feature changes the site theme and alternate style sheet to those specified in the FEATURE.XML file.
 - **Reset Theme**—This feature changes the theme and logo for every site in a collection. A link appears on the Site Settings page to access the feature.
 - **Regular Expression Validation Field**—This feature creates a new field type that accepts a Regular Expression and then uses it to validate the field contents.
 - **Variation Labels Field**—This feature creates a new field type that displays the variation label information for items in a list.

SharePoint Features (continued)

- Administrator-Oriented Features (and supporting features for developers)
 - **Manage Configuration Modifications Feature**—This Feature allows you to manage the web.config modifications that are applied across the farm. This is an enhanced version with more robust error checking than previously. Anyone using the previous version should upgrade.
 - **Manage Form Users**—This Feature adds a page to the People and Groups section of Site Settings for sites that use the SqlAuthenticationProvider. It allows you to add, edit, and delete users. This feature is related to the larger project found here <http://www.codeplex.com/fba>
 - **Manage Hierarchical Object Store**—This Feature allows you to manage the hierarchical data store for each web application. The feature allows you to store key/value pairs in a web application and then retrieve them later. This is similar to storing appSettings in the web.config file, but the values are stored in the SharePoint database. The utility is available through a link on the Operations tab of Central Administration.
 - **Manage Layouts Site Map Feature**—This Feature allows you to manage the LAYOUTS site map to add and remove breadcrumbs for layouts pages. This is a useful feature for putting breadcrumbs on all of those layouts pages you made for your custom features.
 - **SharePoint Events Manager**—This Feature allows you to manage event receivers for lists directly from the SharePoint user interface.
- End User-Oriented Features
 - **Presence Contact List**—This is a contact list modified to show presence information as a drop-down associated with the e-mail field.
 - **Task Alert**—This Feature automatically sets up an alert for someone when a new task is assigned to them.
 - **Task Mover**—This Feature allows you to move a task from one list to another. A “Copy To..” menu item appears on the Edit Control Block for a task item.
 - **Toolbar Manager**—This Feature allows you to selectively show and hide menu items on the standard list/library toolbar. The feature adds a new web part to the gallery that you can place on any list/library view page. Once placed on the page, you can use the properties of the web part to show or hide menu items. This is the perfect solution for hiding a single menu item such as “Export to Spreadsheet” to prevent users from taking that action.
 - **Unique Column Policy**—This Feature creates a new Information Policy that allows you to specify a column in a list or library that should have unique values. It is accessible from the Information Policy link on the list/library settings page. When you turn on the policy, you can then select the column where the unique constraint should be applied.

SharePoint Faceted Search

The screenshot displays a SharePoint search results page in an Internet Explorer browser window. The address bar shows the URL: `http://leonidly2003/SearchCenter/Pages/results.aspx?k=microsoft+ContentSource%3a%22MSDN%22+DETECTEDLANGUAGE%3`. The page title is "Search Results: microsoft +ContentSource:'MSDN'+DETECTEDLANGUAGE:'12'+DETECTEDLANGUAGE:'9'+Conte".

The search interface includes a search bar with the query "microsoft ContentSource:'MSDN' DETECTEDLANGUAGE:'1" and an "Advanced Search" link. Below the search bar, there are three faceted search filters: "Content So...", "Language", and "Content Type". The "Language" filter is currently set to "English".

The search results are displayed in a list format. The first result is a Microsoft Online Privacy Notice Highlights. The second result is a Microsoft ASP.NET search result for "Download Microsoft Visual Web Developer 2005 Express Edition...". The third result is an update.microsoft.com link. The fourth result is a Microsoft View <myWorld> link. The fifth result is a Microsoft Dynamics CRM link.

On the right side of the page, there is a "Faceted Search" section showing the following results:

- Author**
 - (MI) (2)
 - Aaron Lerch (1)
 - Abhishek Kumar Singh (1)
 - AdComplete.com, LLC/... (14)
 - Ainslie Johnson / Or... (4)
 - ...
- Content Source**
 - MSDN (4642)
- Content Type**
 - text/html; charset=u... (4261)
 - Html (237)
 - text/html; charset=i... (111)
 - text/html; charset=w... (15)
 - text/html; charset=utf-8 (11)
 - ...
- Language**
 - English (4626)
 - French (16)

The page also shows "Processed 4642 results" and "Not cached". The status bar at the bottom indicates "Done" and "Trusted sites".

WSPBuilder | STSDev

- Helps developers develop deployable SharePoint features and Solutions
- It is much more difficult to write deployable code for SharePoint if you do *not* use these tools
- They do mostly the same thing, so pick one you like and start using it!

SharePoint Designer Custom Activities

- **Send Email with HTTP File attachment** - Allows sending emails with attachments retrieved using a web request
- **Send Email with List Item attachments** - Allows sending list item attachments as files attached to an email
- **Start Another Workflow** - Starts another workflow associated with a list item
- **Grant Permission on Item** - Allows granting of specified permission level on a specified item
- **Delete List Item Permission Assignment** - Allows deleting of specified permission level assignment for a given user
- **Reset List Permissions Inheritance** - removes any unique permissions assigned to an item by inheriting list permissions
- **Is User a member of a SharePoint group** - Checks if a given user is part of given SharePoint group
- **Is Role assigned to User** - Checks if a user role is already assigned on the current list item
- **Lookup user info** - allows to lookup properties in site's user information list for a given login
- **Copy List Item Extended Activity** - Allows copying/moving list items and files cross site.
- **Send Email Extended** - Enhanced version of the OOTB activity. Allows you to specify the sender. Also does not break links in body.

.NET Reflector

- “That’s how they did that!”

Community Kit for SharePoint

- **Enhanced Blog Edition**

- Easily deployable solution file (.WSP) with Features that can be activated or deactivated
- Modular Theme Framework ("MTF") with optional "night time" autoswitch themelet
- Protection for anonymous access to 'System Pages'. This means anonymous users cannot access `/lists/.aspx`, `/forms/.aspx`, `/_layouts/*.aspx`
- MetaBlogApi working a bit better...You will need to create a Picture/Document library called Media for it to upload images.
- Support for Akismet comment spam detection
- Multiple categories/tags can be mapped to each blog entry/post
- Anonymous comments can be moderated
- Name and URL fields in comments
- Friendly URL ("FURL") for the blog's posts
- Friendly URL for the blog's RSS feed
- Support for CKS:TagCloud web part (being released separately)
- Configurable settings
 - Enable content caching
 - Enable post trimming (Vince, can you add a number field to set the # of characters?)
 - Lock down system pages
 - Akismet key
 - Set specific blog theme (as the default)
 - Custom RSS feed (e.g. from Feedburner)
 - Enable Theme Selector (so users can select their own theme)
 - Redirect the Post.aspx page (Vince, what's this for?)

“Fantastic 40” Site Templates

- WOW—too many to mention, let’s look at a demo!

Q&A

- Thank you!
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- lespaulrob@hotmail.com
- <http://www.twitter.com/lespaulrob>
- Blog: <http://www.robfooster.net>