WEB DEVELOPMENT - Tips and Training

XENU Link Sleuth
Link Sleuth is a simple to use application that checks your website for both internal and external broken links. More information about Xenu is available at http://home.snafu.de/tilman/xenulink.html.

To have the Link Sleuth installed on your workstation, have your Technical Coordinator make a request to CSDS in ITaP via the Approved Person Request Form.

Instructions for Using Link Sleuth

1. a.) Start by selecting "File" then "Check URL;" b.) Or you can click on the page icon under "File;" c.) or you can hit the Ctrl+N keys.
2. Next, type in the main URL or website you would like to check for broken links in the "Xenu's starting point" window. You can expand the site you want to check by adding additional internal URLs in the Expand text field. Conversely, you can restrict Link Sleuth to not check certain pages or sections by listing them in the Restrict text field.
   Note: You can hone your search by clicking on the "More options..." button and then select the specific checkboxes.
3. Once you have filled in the appropriate fields, click "OK" and Link Sleuth will run a report listing all links. The broken links will be listed in red.
   Notes:
   a. To make it easier to view the broken links listed in the report, click on the "Status" header to sort by the status type.
   b. To find out what the originating page is for the broken link, highlight the broken link and click on the button to the left of the "?" button at the top of the Link Sleuth application.

Link Sleuth Tips

1. You can press ALT-ENTER in List View or click on the Properties logo on the toolbar to see who links to a URL.
2. Press CTRL-R to retry all broken URLs.
3. If you have too many failed connections, try setting less threads in the Options Dialog.
4. Right-click on a URL to get interesting features: Google Cache and Internet Archive; this can help you to find the former content of a broken URL, so that you can search for it with a search engine.
5. You can launch the report at any time by pressing 'R' or from the menu, you don't have to wait until Xenu is finished going through your site.
6. You can sort the List View by clicking on the top of a column.
7. If it takes forever to launch the report, then you should disable the site map in the options dialog.
8. Over 30 frequently asked questions are answered on the homepage (click the button in the "About" dialog).
9. There is an announcements and a discussion mailing list for Xenu. Visit the homepage (click the button in the "About" dialog) for more details.
10. You can adjust all columns by pressing CRTL and the PLUS key on the numeric keypad.