

Technical specifications

- Reason was developed on a Linux, Apache HTTPd, MySQL, PHP stack.
- OS: Any Linux distribution should be suitable. Reason has been tested most on Red Hat Enterprise Linux AS4 and AS5. Mac OS X and BSD should also be suitable, although they have not been extensively tested. Win32 is not yet a supported platform.
- HTTP Server: Apache 1.3, 2.0, and 2.2 have all been run in production without issue.
- PHP: The latest version requires PHP v4.x. PHP 5.x support is planned, but there are known issues under PHP 5.x that are not yet resolved in 4.0 beta 4.
- DB: MySQL 4.0.x – 5.0.x
- Other requirements: HTML Tidy, ImageMagick, shell access by PHP

One installation, any number of sites

- Administrators and content maintainers use a web-based interface—no desktop installation required
- Create any number of sites from a single installation of Reason. Site creation is entirely handled by the web-based administrator interface.
- Assign individual editing rights for each site; content maintainers see only the areas they are allowed to edit

Clean, standards-compliant code

- Integration with HTML Tidy ensures that all markup in the system is xhtml-compliant
- Templates and WYSIWYG editors use a simple, semantically-focused interface designed to prevent “tag soup”
- Keeps code clean, semantic and standards-compliant

Built-in LDAP integration

- Reason can use LDAP — or, through a pluggable framework, any directory service — as an authoritative source for authentication and/or identity information
- Support for departmental staff and faculty listings drawn from directory
- Understanding of dynamic groups based on attributes like affiliation and title

XHTML- and CSS-based theme system

- Choose from a library of predefined themes or create your own
- Make new themes using CSS and/or by creating new xhtml templates
- Site maintainers can be allowed to choose themes themselves from a menu provided by system administrators. You control which themes are available for selection, and which sites may change themes

Reduce server load for high-traffic pages with a cache

- Turn cache on and off on a site-by-site basis

Full Unicode (foreign language character) support

- Thoroughly tested UTF-8 support accommodates content in most languages and character sets

Automatic redirects when pages are moved

- Reason handles redirects automatically when a page is moved, reducing “page not found” errors and keeping links and bookmarks alive when URLs change

Publish information via RSS

- Reason creates RSS feeds automatically for many common data types, including blogs, newsletters, faqs, events, etc.
- Modular feed system allows straightforward creation of new feeds with light programming

Extend Reason to meet organization-specific needs

- Create custom modules to integrate with existing systems or to expand Reason's features
- Modular, open-source framework puts control in your hands
- Create new data types and extend existing data types as needed.
- Reason auto-generates administrative interfaces for your custom data types, which are customizable in PHP with a powerful administrative API.
- Your custom data types are “full citizens” in Reason—they automatically get all of Reason's built-in services such as borrowing/sharing, change-by-change item history, caching, tidy, unicode, rss feeds, etc.
- Clear framework for adding new features and overriding default behaviors — a parallel directory structure for local changes ensures a clear delineation between core code and organization-specific modifications and extensions
- Available Subversion access allows easy updates with minimal upgrade hassle, and helps you keep up-to-date with the latest changes to the codebase for development of code code contributions or for previews of bleeding edge features
- The GNU General Public License makes sure Reason will remain free and open source; it guarantees your freedom to modify all future versions of Reason and to share your changes with others.

Questions about Reason? Interested in downloading or demoing the application?

Visit <http://reason.carleton.edu> or email reason-support@lists.carleton.edu