

LSDB in a Box – Status Report

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We reported at the Cancun meeting of the Human Genome Variation Society in April 2003 that resources available at the MRC Human Genetics Unit were to be assigned to the development of the next generation of Locus Specific Database (LSDB) software. Key features of such software are:

- Platform independence
- Ability to run on systems as diverse as a stand-alone laptop or an internet web server
- Ease of installation and use
- Core functionality to handle mutation, patient, sample, and phenotype data
- Modularity to allow easy extension beyond the "core" functionality
- Interoperability with other systems such as the WayStation
- The software should be free of charge to the community

Initially, we have concentrated on the core design of the database system, though loss of our key database programmer resulted in unavoidable delays in the development. A new programmer is now in place and we expect to be back on track very soon.

We are creating a web site detailing plans for the software, through which members of the community can input their own ideas for consideration. The URL for this web site is <http://lsdb.hgu.mrc.ac.uk/>. If you would like to contribute to this project, please contact us via the web site or by email (email addresses of the authors are in the participant list section of the programme book).