

A thank you note!

Xqinenglish.com has made it past the first year. When I started out last year, I had never expected that it would last so long. Much has happened since I first started out. Many people have helped me along the way, and I find it befitting on the first anniversary to thank all.

How Xqinenglish.com came about ...

I play Xiangqi on a daily basis at various websites when I am free. It was during one of the games when I met Mr Harvey Blume. We were playing a game of Xiangqi and we started chatting. Mr Harvey lamented on the lack of Xiangqi resources, accessible in English and user friendly. I did some research and surfed the net and found that it was indeed so. The rise of China both politically and economically in recent years has also further increased interest in the Chinese culture and in turn, Xiangqi. At first, I did not care much and left what Mr Blume said at the back of my mind. But the thought of the lack of decent Xiangqi resources in English just would not go away. I thought about it for some time and as I happened to have some time, I decided to do something for a childhood passion. I was going to spend that time relearning some of the basics. One thing led to the next, and that was when I decided to write a website on Xiangqi. To me, it meant a continuation with a love affair with Xiangqi. This website would be what I had personally hoped to have had when I first fell in love with the game over twenty years ago. It would contain the most basic stuff, from basic kills, to endgames, to midgames to openings. It would introduce to anyone the game of Xiangqi in its simplest, most beautiful form. It would also be a quick reference on various topics. I had never wanted it to be an encyclopedia on Xiangqi but I wanted it accommodate as much as I could write and upload. I repeat, this website would be the website that I had hoped to have to improve my game and learn more about the subject when I first started out 2 decades ago. And why not?

But there were a few major obstacles.

First of all, I knew next to nothing about website building. I have trouble even opening my mailbox sometimes. I asked around, bought a Dreamweaver manual, downloaded how-to videos from Youtube to try to solve this major obstacle.

Unfortunately, it was not enough and I still had trouble using Dreamweaver. Friends helped me to ask around for help.

That was when I was introduced to Mr Jono Chen and Mr Xen Wang, both computer

programmers. They introduced me to Mtwebcenters, whereby the wysiwyg format took most of the pain out of writing and maintaining the site. Mr Jono Chen also helped me out with making the various templates that I now cut and paste with ease. However, for the pain relief, a hole was burnt in my wallet, as now I had to pay approximately US\$ 80 per month for technical support. But at least they gave me the stats to my site and increased my efficiency greatly. So after one year, I have paid US\$1600. It was expensive, but I guess it was worth it. Maybe one day, when I am less busy, I would go and really take a course on Dreamweaver. Till then...

The second biggest obstacle that nearly halted my project was the lack of a decent Xq viewer. There have been several decent to good Xq viewers, allowing easy uploading of the boards and the addition of comments, BUT they were unable to show variations of moves on the same board.

Without this feature, I could not explain with ease or make do-it yourself tutorials for anyone interested to see. I had written to the maker of Qianhong for help and he gave me a few suggestions. I had nearly decided on using Qianhong (which is very user friendly and has the best English interface there is in all the Xq viewers) as its strengths seem to compliment best with what I had in mind.

Then, Mr Peter Sung came to my help. In my search for a decent Xq viewer, I had wrote to the Asian Xiangqi Federation (AXF) and the World Xiangqi Federation (WXF). Lady luck smiled on me again. I managed to get an email reply from Mr Felix Tan, an authority on Xiangqi and one of the personnel responsible for organizing various Asian Xiangqi Federation (AXF) competitions. Mr Felix Tan introduced me to Mr Peter Sung, another authority on Xiangqi, and also the webmaster of the World Xiangqi Federation website, which to date is still the leading English website on Xiangqi in the world. Mr Peter Sung gave me much help and introduced me to Xq Wizard. I tried it and found that it suited my needs more, being able to easily upload the boards that I wanted to provide. However, it was still unable to show variations of the moves. CCBridge, which I had not know existed. Mr Sung also gave me much advice and help. Mr Sung first introduced me to XqWizard.

I told Mr Sung about my needs and ideas and he gave me CCBridge. Voila, I was now ready. After some more help from Mr Jono, I started my website

The third obstacle that I was faced with was how to organize what I had in mind into a simple format. After many trials and experiments, I came up with my current system for use in the endgames. For the openings, after some research, I decided to go with ECCO, which is the most scientific classification system there is today. In the

process of writing the stuff to be uploaded, many volunteers came to my aid. Mr Chris Hankinson helped me out with so much stuff that I do not know where to begin thanking him. Georg Jeiter's friendship and efficiency at work have further eased the chores of doing my website.

Many more people wrote to me, giving me the strength to carry on. I have yet to be able to organize the thank you letters, but you know who you are and I thank you again.

Achievements :

In about June I launched the facebook puzzles page, hoping to get more interaction with my site. It has taken up a huge chunk of my time but it is worth it. Although visitors to that site vary from day to day, but I think it has helped promote Xiangqi. Quite many people got to know my site from the facebook fanpage too.

One of the highlights in the course of doing my website occurred last year. One of the editors, Mr Mark Taylor, of Chesslife, one of the biggest International Chess Magazines wrote to me, asking for help on doing an autobiography of legendary Xie Xiaxun. I helped out the best that I could, and the article was published I think in November. It was an honor to get recognized in such a great magazine. I hope it helps promote Xiangqi further.

I was also very pleased to know that Mr Antonio Barra from Italy/Poland has also been writing his Xiangqi column in Italian. The world of Xiangqi is growing.

It was also another pleasant surprise to see that the Russian Xiangqi Federation has direct links to my site for some of the ancient manuals. I am pleased that they have recognized me.

Stats :

I hope Google representatives get to see this and reinstate my site. LOL!

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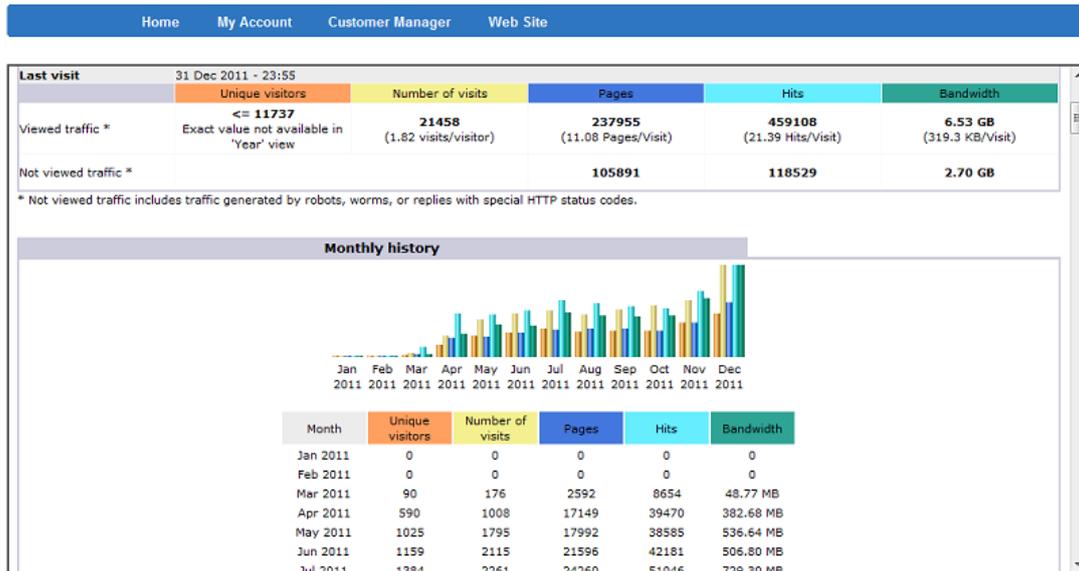
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Yes, after one year, on its anniversary, there are now over 1000 pages on my site. I never knew I would come this far. May the next 1000 pages be uploaded in an even shorter time...



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When my site came online in 2011/3/31 (which happened to be my daughter's one year old birthday....) there were practically no visitors...LOL. But it has grown slowly. The last time I was bored and searched for my site's rankings on google and yahoo, I still lacked far behind. But I insist on quality over quantity!



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These were the stats from this year. Still slowly growing. I hope to be able to have

over 1000 visitors per day by the end of this year. More people MUST get to know this game! (Ps I average slightly less that 200/day now.)

Visitors domains/countries					
Domains/Countries	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth		
Network	net	88706	164532	2.08 GB	
Unknown	ip	52267	96670	1.39 GB	
Singapore	sg	15896	37178	549.65 MB	
Commercial	com	15551	31624	508.30 MB	
Russian Federation	ru	10640	13207	99.10 MB	
Germany	de	7935	13675	348.40 MB	
Thailand	th	5695	11032	380.25 MB	
Belarus	by	5139	10471	93.19 MB	
Poland	pl	3156	6708	101.99 MB	
France	fr	2944	4037	30.20 MB	
Taiwan	tw	2707	8878	102.11 MB	
Greece	gr	2601	3940	34.82 MB	
USA Government	gov	2526	7254	70.78 MB	
New Zealand	nz	2355	4021	32.96 MB	
Italy	it	2252	5038	91.51 MB	
Australia	au	2192	4792	70.09 MB	
Indonesia	id	1962	3588	43.21 MB	
Vietnam	vn	1408	3135	48.25 MB	
Mexico	mx	1356	2865	32.56 MB	
Sweden	se	1247	2353	31.21 MB	
Malaysia	my	1240	3809	85.02 MB	
Old style Arpanet	arpa	881	2188	43.71 MB	
Netherlands	nl	702	1685	32.12 MB	

And these stats show part of the International crowd that has visited my site over the past year. They may not seem much, but I think I can be proud of my achievements. Without the help of so many fellow Xiangqi lovers, this would not have been possible! I would also hope that more people can write to me as we share the delights of Xiangqi.

1299 different keyphrases			1161 different keywords		
	Search	Percent		Search	Percent
xqinenglish	191	6.6 %	xiangqi	1215	15.1 %
xiangqi in english	125	4.3 %	chess	378	4.7 %
learn chinese chess	88	3 %	english	353	4.3 %
xiangqi	60	2 %	chinese	340	4.2 %
xqinenglish.com	56	1.9 %	in	256	3.1 %
www.xqinenglish.com	54	1.8 %	xqinenglish	195	2.4 %
xiangqi english	43	1.4 %	learn	159	1.9 %
xiangqi openings	31	1 %	xiang	149	1.8 %
learn xiangqi	25	0.8 %	qi	147	1.8 %
chinese chess in english	22	0.7 %	the	102	1.2 %
Other phrases	2197	75.9 %	Other words	4745	59 %

Miscellaneous		
Miscellaneous	5726 / 11737 Visitors	48.7 %
Add to favorites (relative indicator)		
Javascript disabled	-	
Browsers with Java support	-	
Browsers with Macromedia Director Support	-	
Browsers with Flash Support	-	
Browsers with Real audio playing support	-	
Browsers with Quicktime audio playing support	-	
Browsers with Windows Media audio playing support	-	

Finally, I thank the 5726 people who have added me to their list of favorites. It is a huge consolation that keeps me going. I do hope that more people write to me to tell

me what is going on with Xianqi in your part of the world. I would gladly add a section to show Xiangqi in different parts of the world.

Many more people are to be thanked for accompanying me the past year, but it would be impossible to mention all. I will continue to keep doing the stuff I like, and share it with the world. Thank you again.



And that is me in the OR few years back. My tummy has become bigger... That piece of metal I am holding in my hands is used to cut metallic pins after we have fixed fractures. I have since left the hospital for a pure outpatient job, so that I can spend more time on Xiangqi.

Jim Png
2012/03/31