project requirements:

a. Jazz Studies to stream music for current students. Music should be available only in the music labs (we expect this might change)
b. Files should be high quality MP3s.
c. Songs should be searchable (artist, genre, etc.)

research:

Given the constraints we examined several solutions:

a. Quicktime Streaming Server did not allow the flexibility we desired with students being able to build playlists on the fly nor did it offer out of the box searching capability.

b. Flash was looked at as language to develop an application that would facilitate project needs including searching and dynamic playlist creation. The time scope for the project ruled out developing a flash application.

c. Andromeda was finally chosen for it's ability to meet the design goals of the project quickly and cost effectively. It can search a music collection and reads many of the id3tags present in the MP3 file format. Playlists can be built by students through a friendly web interface which is finally sent to a music application such as iTunes. Andromeda also facilitates minimal future maintenance from our staff. Faculty can simply copy additional music to the server via AFP and Andromeda will automatically add it to the collection. No additional page creation is needed.

>> setup >>

setup:

a. Mac OS X client 10.2.6

  _ user = "music"

  _ andromeda php files live in users/music/sites folder

b. Set to allow access only from finearts and music domains in music.conf

c. Set media path to separate volume in andromeda prefs (no symbolic link to volume in users/music/sites)

All mp3s exist on other volume (189 GB purchased by Jazz Studies)

d. Set password requirement through andromeda, uses andromeda's authentication

  _ htaccess would allow viewing html, but would not allow files to stream.

  _ Andromeda's auth system stores passwords in a plaintext file.

>> demo <<

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future:

a.   If access is ever to be extended past on-campus listening, we will need a different authentication system, perhaps making use of webCT info.

b.   Currently waiting for more music files from jazz studies.

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more information:

a.   http://www.turnstyle.com/andromeda/