

Post details: Portal comparison: Liferay v. uPortal

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planetapache.org, **Programming**, Work

For Cornerstone University's portal we decided to switch from our planned uPortal 2.5.1 implementation to use Liferay 3.6.1 instead. Several people have wondered why. Here's a few comparisons:

Feature	Liferay	uPortal
Customization	AJAX drag & drop	much more difficult, but slightly more options
User/group data integration	Must use its own SQL tables (we wrote scripts to insert into those)	Can map to remote SQL, LDAP, etc
Community	big, but often unanswered questions in forum	Smaller, seems more helpful, focused on higher-ed
Bundled portlets/channels	A lot (78). We use several (RSS, menu navigation, portlet aggregator, Wiki display, weather)	Few, none of which provided much value to us
Themeing	easy	hard (~3 layers of abstraction)
Pretty URLs	yes	no
Layouts	each group you are a part of has a layout (page) hierarchy; this works very well for us. We did have to write a Java utility to insert similar layouts into similar groups	Don't think there is a way for heirachy of pages; each user's layout can appear different based on what groups they are in
Portlet hotdeploy	yes	no (?)
CAS for authentication	yes	yes
Installation into app server	Messy; requires putting lots of jars into common	Clean; the portal is just one webapp

A very good comparison of these and more portals:
<http://epubs.cclrc.ac.uk/bitstream/785/406.pdf>

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Comment from: Jason Shao [Visitor] · <http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~jayshao/>
Were any of these items in particular deal-breakers/decision points?

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Comment from: Dave Brondsema [Member]

The better usability, especially with drag-and-drop customization was very important. Ease of theming was also important since we had limited time. And then the way layouts and menus turned out ended up being a very nice bonus (something we hadn't fully understood before we made our decision).

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