

PORTALS@LISTSERV.EDUCAUSE.EDU; Thu, 03 Nov 2005 14:25:51 -0600 (CST)

Date: Thu, 03 Nov 2005 15:23:36 -0500

From: Jim Farmer <jxf@IMMAGIC.COM>

Subject: Re: [PORTALS] Interest In A Portals Conference

To: PORTALS@LISTSERV.EDUCAUSE.EDU

Reply-to: The EDUCAUSE Web Portals Constituent Group Listserv

<PORTALS@LISTSERV.EDUCAUSE.EDU>

Organization: instructional media + magic, inc.

Off-list my colleague Justin Tilton suggested I should have been more precise in my comments about portals and learning systems. He accurately points out that as implemented in uPortal installations, uPortal provides single signon for Blackboard and WebCT. But their content is presented separate from uPortal. Rutgers University has uPortal channels that show enrollment in WebCT or Blackboard courses and grades.

Justin also pointed out the WSRP version of Moodle has not yet been reviewed by the Moodle partners or developers. Sakai has not released the selected method of WSRP that will be used with uPortal in future releases; Chief Architect Charles Severance has identified four possible design approaches and would like all four to be available for portals sometime in the future.

jim farmer

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Participation and subscription information for this EDUCAUSE Constituent Group discussion list can be found at <http://www.educause.edu/groups/>.

PORTALS@LISTSERV.EDUCAUSE.EDU; Thu, 03 Nov 2005 11:19:26 -0600 (CST)

Date: Thu, 03 Nov 2005 12:17:11 -0500

From: Jim Farmer <jxf@IMMAGIC.COM>

Subject: Re: [PORTALS] Interest In A Portals Conference

To: PORTALS@LISTSERV.EDUCAUSE.EDU

Reply-to: The EDUCAUSE Web Portals Constituent Group Listserv

<PORTALS@LISTSERV.EDUCAUSE.EDU>

Message-id: <436A4617.9070608@immagic.com>

Organization: instructional media + magic, inc.

Mark, as you learned from subsequent posts, there is a broad interest in a portals conference. Jonathan Markow commented that the June JA-SIG Conference focuses on uPortal.

You may want to consider a conference that immediately precedes or follows the JA-SIG Conference in June or even overlaps with the JA-SIG Conference as an alternative to a separate conference.

This summer Brad Wheeler suggested a "Community Source Week" that ran three conferences--Sakai, Open Source Portfolio Initiative, and JA-SIG --sequentially in the same location. It appears this increased attendance in each of the conferences more than 10%. And it decreased costs since the infrastructure--wireless access, audio visual, etc.--carried through the three conferences. And the longer stays led to reduced room rates.

You may also have noticed the shift in interest from installing a portal--the technology--into the implementation of business processes to support diverse portlets and to keep content current.

An interesting note from Bill Thompson's uPortal briefing at Educause: Many of the uPortal channel developments have morphed into JSR 168 or WSRP portlets so the resulting portlets could be used in any open standards-compliant portal such as IBM's WebSphere, Oracle's portal, and Sun's portal. So regardless of the portal software itself, there is a wide range of portlets that could be used in any of these. (This was not true last year; implementations of the open standards are very new).

If the proposed conference "overlapped" with JA-SIG these portlet projects, such as the CREE library portlets, often reported in the JA-SIG Conference, could be made available to others as well. Then the conference you suggested could focus on multiple portals, different implementations, and the wealth of portal applications--portlets--that are available.

I believe the idea of a portals conference arranged jointly with JA-SIG and CampuseAI would provide the broadest range of presentations that would address the issues identified in the responses to your post and the opportunities emerging from the various development projects.

A footnote: Current plans are for the Sakai Collaborative Learning Environment to be available as a WSRP portlet beginning with version 2.1 in December. There is an emerging project among the Moodle partners for a uPortal compliant version of Moodle There are also Blackboard and WebCT versions running in uPortal and likely would run in other portals as well. This is an additional reason for using an enterprise portal.

I believe some research would show you could have a very productive and very well received joint conference.

jim farmer

Mark Albert wrote:

> Greetings all,
> Shortly after Educause 2005, Gettysburg College started kicking around
> the idea of hosting a Portals Conference in the June 2006 timeframe.
> The goal of the conference would be to bring together educational
> institutions to discuss the many layers of portals, from thinking
> about, implementing, maintaining and getting the user-community to
> actually use the portal.
>
> We would like to gauge the interest in such a conference before we put
> forth the energy of throwing a party that no one comes to. If you
> would be interested in attending a portals conference in June 2006,
> please send me an email to let me know there is interest.
>
> If there appears to be enough interest, I will move forward with the
> preparations and let everyone know the when and where.
>
> Thanks,
> MRA
>
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