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**To:** sakai <sakai@ctools.umich.edu>  
**Subject:** csg excerpt  
**Date:** Tue, 7 Jun 2005 15:58:54 -0400 (EDT)

[excerpt only]

IV. Chandler Update (Lam)

Chao's slides may be found at <http://www.stonesoup.org/Meetings/0505/mtg.presents/lam.ppt>.

Chao Lam introduced himself as the product manager for OSAF, and said we had our Westwood Advisory Council meeting, a pretty good meeting. He introduced Sheila Mooney, program manager at OSAF, doing the real work in making sure the product ships.

What I'd like to do in this short general session is give you a quick update on what happened at the Westwood Advisory Council meeting, and zoom in on some of the issues raised there and discussions there. We want to focus on calendaring, it's the biggest need right now; OSAF needs it too. We want to show the progress in the calendaring space, on the client and on the server side.

In a quick recap of the Westwood Advisory Council meeting. Chao said we had a general OSAF update, and Sheila gave a 0.5 update; we just shipped 0.5 on schedule. We are wrapping up the planning phase of the 0.6 release; we're reasonably on track there too. We had a recap of the technical meeting that took place in April; 11 CSG members attended, and we drilled down into the architecture of Chandler itself, and had good discussions there too. Then we zoomed into the area of the OSAF server that we call Cosmo, and into community development.

Since we meet once every four months, I'll give a high level picture snapshot of where we are. When we first started out over two years ago, when we introduced ourselves, we were talking about Chandler. Since then, especially in collaboration with you folks, we realized that Chandler as a rich client is useful by itself, but really doesn't fulfill the whole picture. In the last update we talked about introducing a Chandler server, using WebDAV as the solution of the server: we are calling that Cosmo now, and it uses the CalDAV standard; however, our repository is about all your personal data, e.g. email, so we are calling this ChanDAV.

However, that's not the full picture. We have something called Scooby now. (You'll notice most things are named after dogs in our organization.) Scooby is the web UI approach to representing data in Cosmo, just as Chandler is the rich client way of showing interactions and data from the repository. We see the world moving particularly to higher ed's nomadic and kiosk mode, so we need a web UI; we just started this effort two months ago. The other emerging trend at OSAF has focused in the last year on interoperability and open standards; we see creating an open repository and having other sources come in, such as Mozilla Sunbird, interoperating first with a CalDAV server and then an item-centric repository. The repository we are using is based on an open-source Apache J2EE project based on Jakarta Slide (<http://jakarta.apache.org/slide/index.html>); the last layer is based on JCR (Java Common Repository, <http://jcp.org/en/jsr/detail?ID=3D170>), and we're using an open-source project called Jackrabbit (<http://incubator.apache.org/projects/jackrabbit.html>) to build on top of that.

What's happened in the last two years is that we started with a broad set of requirements with huge ambitions. We heard loudly and clearly from you guys that, one, we need to focus and, two, we need to make ourselves useful to people. So we decided from this very broad set of requirements to limit ourselves for the next year or so to the calendaring area, because this is the most value-added piece of functionality we can provide, and we can ship a minimally usable piece of software relatively quickly.

With the focusing on calendaring, the good news is that a lot of the requirements that were once planned for the Westwood part of the project have been brought forward into phase one of our project, e.g. the Cosmo repository and the Scooby web UI have been brought forward, and we think that is very much aligned with your goals.

Something we heard loudly and clearly in today's advisory council is that the world is moving as we are developing this software. A huge piece that changes is in regards to device convergence, web based deployment, and the need to interoperate with open standards, e.g. CalDAV and SyncML. We need to go back and come back with a plan here; this is an area we need to focus on.

Taking one step back: yes, we are focusing on calendaring, but we are not forgetting the broader vision -- once we have fully solved the calendaring issue we want to go back to the broader vision of a generic item repository.

In terms of next steps, we decided based on concerns raised today about how the world is changing, that it's worth having a recalibration meeting this summer, having CSG explicitly state its goals for the Chandler project and for OSAF to say what are our goals, and confirm we have common goals and strong alignment.

Frank noted that since many of us are in the calendar choice situation, it = would be good to keep us up to date on the release schedule. What happened = to us: we were enthusiastic about the original Chandler project, and got pe= ople back at Harvard to buy in, but with the release date so far out it was= not a realistic candidate; now with the calendar a new focus, potentially = you can bring that release date forward, and that might be very important i= n the decision making process. Second, regarding small devices, I want to e= cho Tracy Futhey's comment as to how bad syncing is. We'd like something th= at allows updates in real time, such as a WAP calendar that runs on your de= vice. Our people don't want to have to sync to get their calendars. We're m= oving toward the always-on PDA.

Chao replied that this is consistent with points raised by Greg and others this morning. We would like to nail down release dates this summer. We want to understand your time pressures in a clearer way, and we'd like to articulate what kinds of minimal deliveries we can give in a time-based way.

Chao then gave a short demonstration of the current Chandler software.

Jeff McCullough next spoke briefly about his effort at the recent Chandler sprint event to put together a Chandler parcel to interface with Berkeley's library directory. One of the groups on campus is called Interactive University, which does outreach to K-12 instructors who have been viewing Chandler as a great platform for pulling together information. There happens to be an XML interface to Melvyl, the UC-wide library system; so we put together the code for Chandler. You put in a search term, and it goes off and searches through Melvyl, and returns lists of authors and titles. Future steps would integrate these results with other information I might have, for example, e.g. Shakespeare.

Regarding the sprint itself, it was a six-hour effort, and both sides learned something. What's cool is that the Chandler developer tools are becoming usable; in the 0.6 version this will become easy enough that you won't need OSAF staff holding your hand.

Charlie asked Chao if you were a betting man, when do you think this will be released? Chao replied that we're very focused on a usable calendar first. The goal for the 0.6 release -- the dogfood release -- is the fall of this year. It will take two more revs to make it developer-usable, e.g. Q1 or Q2 of next year for a usable calendar. The pivotal decision, to be made in part this summer, will decide how much we just focus on calendaring and how much other things like email we'll try to put in.

Frank noted that from our perspective, if you have a usable release for universities by summer 2006 that would be useful, especially with beta testing in the spring. Timing is very important. If we could get a release schedule that is tied to reality from you, that would be useful. It helps that you're not aiming at the corporate world where you have to do everything under the sun. Chao said we hear you load and clear. Frank replied that the expectation is that next time someone asks you, you can give a realistic date and stick by it. Chao agreed and said that we're slowly getting better at scheduling, and finished by saying that software development is hard.

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