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**iAssessment Teams with JA-SIG using Open Source
uPortal Framework for K-12 Education Market**

Leverages popular higher education portal platform to benefit primary school systems

SALT LAKE CITY – February 3, 2003 – iAssessment, a leading provider of technology solutions for the K-12 education market, has joined the Java in Administration Special Interest Group (JA-SIG). JA-SIG developed uPortal, an open source portal framework that has gained wide acceptance among major colleges and universities worldwide. iAssessment is spearheading a move to extend the benefits of the open source uPortal framework to meet the needs of K-12 school systems.

JA-SIG allows the participation of educational institutions and software suppliers to share non-proprietary applications and resources through its open source framework, uPortal. This collaboration serves more than 150 colleges and universities with uPortal and applications being developed and distributed. This cooperative effort improves services while reducing costs. iAssessment is bringing these same benefits to the K-12 market, as part of its development focus on K-12 education solutions.

“uPortal has proven to be an invaluable resource for higher education institutions, enabling a true sharing of resources, ideas and best practices among universities through open source technology,” said Dan Cookson, co-founder of iAssessment. “iAssessment is participating with JA-SIG to develop a strong K-12 presence and provide a translation of similar benefits within the K-12 education system. With a national focus on education reform, we believe that our system architecture coupled with uPortal helps manage the technology interconnections in schools and serves as a framework to respond to K-12

technology needs. We provide an operating environment with the necessary conditions to foster more skillful use of data to improve learning and decision making capacity within school systems; an integration platform which allows all users to find the right data when they need it.”

As a member of the JA-SIG community, iAssessment is taking a leading role in developing applications that utilize the open source uPortal framework to meet the needs of K-12 institutions. K-12 schools continue to adopt and implement technology at a rapid rate. With similar policy and compliance objectives they have a need to share resources and best practices, collaborate and learn from each other.

“JA-SIG is about promoting open source technology to promote collaboration and the sharing of valuable resources through technology,” said Jim Farmer, JA-SIG. “There is a strong need for collaboration among K-12 institutions and a growing commitment to technologies that can provide this.”

“JA-SIG and iAssessment are working to translate the success of uPortal in higher education to now benefit primary school institutions,” said Carl Jacobson, University of Delaware. “This will enable the sharing of resources, ideas and best practices with the ultimate goal of improving our education system.”

uPortal and GPS

uPortal’s technical foundation provided iAssessment with the ability to build Web-based portal systems with an intuitive set-up mechanism based on user and group profiles. iAssessment’s Gateway Presentation System (GPS) uses uPortal rules to identify, filter, personalize, and “channel” information to users applicable to them. The GPS system architecture provides a K-12 integration framework, enabling each user to experience and access relevant information according to pre-defined roles or groups within each client system. Such classifications could include a specific educational role, school site, job function, district, subject area, grade level, development needs, special interests, or virtually any customizable key K-12 profiling information.

The GPS implementation at one state department of education includes data aggregation touch points for every type of educator as well as the entire administrative hierarchy, including principals, superintendents, regional coordinators, county and state level personnel. The GPS system architecture leverages this “technology framework” to enable the client to set up a system that matches its organization model. Defining which tools, resources, data and communication will be provided to each user in the system is really as simple as defining the roles or groups, then setting up the corresponding “layouts” and “file folder” tabs within the GPS.

About JA-SIG

The Java in Administration Special Interest Group (JA-SIG) is an independent organization designed to increase the flow of information between educational institutions and companies involved in the development of administrative applications using Java technology.

The purpose of JA-SIG is, first, to share our experiences as we build applications with Java, and second, to develop a common infrastructure upon which we can build shareable components. JA-SIG welcomes the participation of both educational institutions and commercial enterprises in this effort.

The JA-SIG membership sponsors of a twice-annual conference in North America and an annual conference in the United Kingdom. The JA-SIG Clearinghouse is a place on the Web to facilitate the sharing of Java components. JA-SIG participants have developed the free, open source, open standard portal for higher education: uPortal, and are now developing portal-compliant applications. For more information, visit www.ja-sig.org.

About iAssessment

iAssessment helps educational institutions successfully implement Web-based systems and leverage digital resources to improve the overall quality of education. These client-customized solutions help manage assessment and professional development while

meeting reporting, grant development and other school system requirements. The iAssessment Technology Framework combines proficiency assessment and ongoing professional development through its Diagnostic Learning System™ with online resource management. Its Gateway Presentation System™ is a site/role-based content delivery system that manages online decision support, professional development and reporting resources, including data and applications. This helps schools, districts and state education departments analyze and understand institutional needs, promote learning and increase skill development with a focus on affecting positive change in the classroom. Based in Salt Lake City, Utah, iAssessment is helping improve education through more effective use and management of technology for over 400,000 educators. For more information, visit www.iassessment.com.

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