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Subject: Re: Open University Visit

Chuck's observations confirm what I have heard about Open University.

However, the reason for choosing Moodle is not PHP. Based on my conversations over the past two years, they would prefer Java (and the use of uPortal). The issue is presentation of content and the possibility of using Learning Design. The Moodle/LAMS integration has strong advocates at Open University Netherlands and the U.K. DFeS because of the effectiveness of learning sequences.

Note the same combination--LAMS and Moodle--exists at SUNY where Ken Udas was recruited from Open Polytechnic New Zealand to lead the SUNY Learning Network and, by plan, establishing eLearning in or for each of the 64 colleges and universities. However SUNY has a strong preference for Java; expect LAMS to be used with some other learning system. Perhaps John Norman can tell us about the effect of the LAMS .LRN collaboration.

Jason Cole will be giving the keynote (and book signing) at MoodleMoot Savannah in February 2006 in conjunction with the community colleges Instructional Technology Council e-Learn Conference.

I expect an announcement within the next few weeks that IBM Australia has funded significant integration work of Moodle.

jim farmer

Charles Severance wrote:

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> I don't remember if I briefed the board on the Open University visit or not. I already sent you the recorded lecture.
>
> After the lecture we went back and talked with the technical folks about their plans for their next generation VLE environment. At the beginning we talked for a moment about Sakai and then the conversation turned completely to Moodle.
>
> By the end of the conversation, it was pretty clear that they are leaning heavily towards Moodle. At the end of the meeting they slyly revealed that one of their technical folks in the room was Jason Cole, the author of the "Using Moodle" book (http://www.oreilly.com/ catalog/moodle/) - and formerly of SFSU. It was kind of a surprise but there was no harm done - I had been pretty complimentary to Moodle throughout.
>
> John Norman and Anthony Whyte were there with me - so you might want to get their reactions as well. John suggests that OU is 70% of the way to Moodle - and I agree with that assessment.
>
> Once I realized how far along they were I did not try to dissuade them at all. My biggest concern are that they will fork Moodle the day they start using it and will end up in an eddy just because the OU needs to make things work. I think that they are choosing Moodle because they feel they will be the "big fish" in the pond. It also seems as though they have a relatively small/young team and that they think Sakai is too "big and scary" - so a little PHP seems much more approachable.
>
> I am sure that OU will make Moodle a success - they always find a way and are very focused on their products. John will stay engaged in a gentle dialog with OU to make sure that if they need anything or some problem arises we are ready to help.
>
> /Chuck
>
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