WebLearn

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Format (40 mins)

- Introduction
- Overview of tools
- Steve Eyre (English)
- Ray Allen (St Antony's)
- The future

Introduction

- Virtual Learning Environment
- Based on Bodington OSS
- OUCS introduced in 2003-2004
- Production service from 2004
  - 2004: 3411 users, 19464 resources, 614109 hits/week
  - 2005: 4781 users, 33040 resources, 1020362 hits/week
  - 2006: 6790 users, 41317 resources, 1831079 hits/week
  - Med Sci (32%), Life Sci (22%), Humanities (18%)
  - 50% registered Oxford users have logged in
  - most departments and 1/3 colleges on board

Bodington? Odd Name?

- Developed by <u>lecturers</u> at Leeds since 1995
- Nathan Bodington - first VC at Leeds Uni
- Campus mataphor
- Currently used by Oxford, UHI and Leeds
- See: <u>http://bodington.org/</u>
- Podcast: <u>Aggie Booth's Atlanta 06 keynote</u> (http://tinyurl.com/2ldmny)

What we liked (1)

- Not course-based
  - fits Oxford model of pick 'n' mix
  - societies have rooms (sites)
  - committees too (minutes etc)
  - personal space (MyWeblearn)
- Open content (google-ability)
  - anyone can view our courses
  - 10,300 indexed resources

What we liked (2)

- Hierarchy
  - *cf* files and directories
- Fine grained access control
  - not roles but specific permissions
- Flexible groups
  - SRS groups, hidden groups, ad-hoc, ...
- Devolved administration

Overview of tools

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Light relief: A cat in a fez!

Demo of English Site

Stephen Eyre

Faculty

Of English Language and Literature,

Oxford University

That cat in a fez again.

Demo – College site

Ray Allen

St Antony's College

Oxford University

Alright then just once more.

The Future of WebLearn

- Strategic decision to shift to Sakai (sakai.org)
- "Migration to new VLE framework"
- Port Bodington tools / services
- Planned pilot: Michaelmas 2008

The need for change

Sustainability! Or lack thereof.

- Open Source community too small: 3 HEIs
- Leeds & UHI replacing Bodington anyway
- Out of date software, poor architecture

But we must ensure core features still supported!

- Have formed Tetra Collaboration: Oxford, Cambridge, UHI and Hull. More expected – Lancaster? Edinburgh?

Why Sakai (not Moodle?)

- Sakai similar to Bodington
- Enterprise application (*cf* Open U)
- Better OSS model & good community.
- Easier to get Bodington features into main distribution. Sakai loves Bodington! They want our experience.
- We possess necessary skills
- We have very good contacts already

Toolset

Full and provisional tools.

Full:

- chat, calendar, email archive, forum, news, drop box, schedule, web content, wiki, MOTD, membership, admin tools, JSR168 (portlets),

Provisional:

- Blogger, link tool (for PHP apps), maillist, podcasts, polls, tests (crap!), SU (substitute user), JSR 170 (filestore)

'Contrib':

- Video conference, evaluation (survey), image gallery, Fedora integration, site stats, TransformABLE.

Migration strategy

- V little Bodington development
- Add groups, hierarchy & ACL
- Localisation: UK (done) & Oxford
- Tool and service comparison – will eventually match Bodington's toolset
- Also:
  - nice URLs
  - google search
  - devolved admin
- Migration of data!!
- Documentation
- Training

The Plan

- Need detailed project plan
- Want process to be open
- Will want volunteers
- Pilot in OUCS soon
- Full pilot in 2008
- Dual service likely for a year or two

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