UCB SOA Governance group
24 February 2010

Strategies for advancing the project of creating reuse of services on campus:
Towards a group plan for spring 2010

• Are there other strategies to include?
• Which, or which combination, should we prioritize?
• How do we make that decision?

The following options have been identified through previous group meetings and a series of conversations held during December 2009 - February 2010.

(Note: The numbering is only for reference; no hierarchy is intended.)

1. Go for the necessary budget - push for funding to support the work. JR is expected to look for funds this year. Should we help push that effort? Big audience important for winning support. (Are there technical steps we can do prior to receiving funding?)

2. Build, into existing budgets, requirements for addressing or supporting SOA and re-use of services. By doing so, create time for architects to dedicate themselves to this.

3. Low-budget - chipping in "spare cycles." Pick a few needs and solve them. Identify simple "wins" that might pay off in heightened group participation.

4. Build "culture" - Can we begin to reuse services without full architecture? I.e., begin to change culture before the $ for infrastructural change becomes available? Get people looking for reusable services...address governance issues related to 'who pays?' and 'who's making use of the more-widely available data?' Provide institutional incentives to reuse services.

One means to increase institutional incentives is to have Architects 4 & 5, as part of their performance evaluations, demonstrate cases where the services they built were reused because of how they were designed, and defend their (the architects') decisions to build their own services, rather than reusing existing ones.

5. Depict the current patterns of data access and use on campus. We anticipate that the diagram would appear as a spaghetti-like mess, making clearer the need to implement shared services. (Dedra's idea) See, for a start, diagram begun by Steve McCabe for ITAC: https://wikihub.berkeley.edu/display/itac/systems+overview. Check with Bill Allison, who supposedly has started on a similar project in the past few months.

6. Show successes (SOA Gov Table of Services).

7. Compile use cases (George's suggestion):
   • Office of the Registrar FERPA Training SOA Service (Joe Mitola's work)
   • Academic Calendar (Ken Geis)
     Important to Sakai 3, too.
     OpenBctast.
   • OpenID (Josh)
   • bSpace -> course catalogs (George)
   • Coding to emerging CMIS standards for content management services
   • CourseRank - student-created; now done by screen-scraping. (Big audience.)
   • Course Threads - Townsend Center for the Humanities/Tony Cascardi - now created by screen-scraping.
   • Person/org (Patrick S., Sara Quigley) - Name authorities and relationships. Trying to align CollectionSpace and KSS.
Research grant management as an additional use case?
Ray Davis: Sakai 3 integration with a variety of groups, roles, relationships and rights.
In close touch with NYU -- Internet 2 Grouper.
  • Media and time-based metadata inspection and transformation services (provided by Opencast)
  • Coding to emerging IMS/LMS standards for learning management data
  • Coding to PESC standards for student data

8. Build a registry of available services or services repository
9. Follow up on Tomo O'Brien's survey (very little response to date)
10. Identify large audience (see #1, above)
11. Identify/win over influential audience

12. Craft the argument for future support, based on our progress to date and a roadmap of future deliverables: skills being developed, expertise being grown on campus, etc.

13. Identify and study institutions that have successfully aligned their development. (Tomo's suggestion: lucky thirteen!)

IMMEDIATE QUESTION: Which direction(s) should SOA Gov group take, following its Feb 25 quarterly meeting?

Related questions:
  • Is our group membership sufficient, or should we reach out to a larger group (such as all Architect 4 and 5s on campus)? What needs to be done before we attempt that: Are the steps to recruit others already captured here, or is there more to do?

  • Do we want to come to group consensus on priorities? If so, what's the best way to carry on that endeavor: via survey, email, phone conversations?

  • ESSENTIALLY, what do we need to keep this project going? (If we need budget, we should make a request to Shel. What do we need to have in hand in order to go to Shel?)

  • How much time do people think would be needed to do a decent job of this?

---