ERS Campus Profile
Description
8/20/2004

The purpose of the ERS Campus profile is to capture information that will inform the ERS design process. The design of the Effort Reporting System will be developed to best accommodate the technology base of campus systems. To facilitate the design process, it is necessary to understand current technologies in place and anticipated future directions at each campus.

This document provides the details of the questions posed in the companion spreadsheet "template". Items 1-8 are aimed at understanding the environment of the application systems which require significant data interfaces with the ERS in some way. Questions 9 through 30 are to get a better sense of technology services in place today and future directions for application-independent services that the ERS will need to use/support.

Spreadsheet Column

Item 1: Hardware: Manufacturer only. Some server platforms lag the industry in support of current Java releases (Mac Servers are often delayed, for example).

Item 2: Operating System: OS Name and Release only. Some server operating environments lag the industry in support of current Java releases (HPUX Servers are often delayed, for example).

Item 3: App Server: What Vendor or Open Source Implementation (Websphere, BEA, Oracle, JBoss, Tomcat, etc.)? Some servers need special management tools built for them. (JBoss JMX, for example)

Item 4: DBMS: What Vendor or Open Source Implementation? Some DB Server Software does not support the full set of SQL (MySql production releases do not yet support sub queries, for example).

Item 5: Web Services Exposed: For each of the existing environments, the data of the system could be passed to other systems directly via SOAP and the other Web Services protocols. This section is to discover whether this has been done for the corresponding external system as well as future directions.

Item 6: Java APIs exposed: For each of the existing environments, the data of the system could be passed to other systems directly via Java local or remote method calls. This section is to discover whether this has been done for the corresponding external system as well as future directions.

Item 7: JDBC Accessible: For each of the existing environments (except the FAU), the data of the system may reside in a relational database for which there is a Java Data Base Connectivity driver available. This section is to discover whether this is true for the corresponding external system as well as future directions.

Item 8: Homegrown System: For each of the existing environments (except the FAU), the system may have been implemented by writing a homegrown (and possibly Campus-specific) system. This section is to discover how that system could be made to interface with the ERS system as well as future directions.

 Spreadsheet Heading: **Flexible Accounting Unit (FAU):** The FAU is different in each campus environment. From the point of view of the Payroll/Personnel System (PPS) which sources the ERS with key data on effort, the FAU is just a blob-like field. In PPS, the internals of the FAU are exposed by called functions. A similar capability is required for the J2EE environment for the ERS. This section is to determine how this should be done for the ERS system (and any other Java system that might, in the future, need access to the FAU internals and meaning).

Questions:
Items 9-21: The Security and Access Control section: We have a need to restrict access to the ERS data at the department level (and perhaps in other ways as well). This necessitates a comprehensive approach to both authentication and authorization. This section is to discover the current general campus approach to this topic as well as future directions.

Items 22-23: Access to External Systems section: Several of the external systems that the Effort Reporting System will access contain sensitive data. In addition, real-time availability of the systems could have an impact on scheduling some ERS batch and online tasks. This section is to inform the design on campus guidelines on these data access issues.

Items 24-26: Email Notification section: Because of widespread initiatives to control spam, this section is to elicit information that will inform the design of the email notification subsystem to be in alignment with your current and future spam control mechanisms.

Items 27-28: Portal Technology section: This section is to inform the design process about page design considerations in support of your current and anticipated portal strategy.

Item 29: Academic Period section: This section will inform the design process concerning report design and database design.

Item 30: Presentation Strategy: This section will provide information to support the design process on the ERS presentation approach. The J2EE community offers several alternatives for presentation.