Effort Reporting System
Technical Assumptions for Development
DRAFT
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An initiative led by the Berkeley, Davis, Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Francisco campuses to develop a new Effort Reporting System (ERS) has resulted in the development of requirements definition for a system to replace the old A21/PAR system currently in use. A major part of this initiative is that the developed system be technologically transparent to the sponsoring campuses. This set of assumptions is not captured in the requirements definition. They are documented here as a set of baseline assumptions for the technical implementation of the system.

These assumptions are presented to the Effort Reporting System Technical Advisory Group for their review and ratification prior to the start of implementation.

Assumption Set

The first assumption, and most significant is that the Effort Reporting System will be installed and operated separately for each campus within the technical environment for each campus. This assumption implies that the Effort Reporting System will be developed to be adaptable to the specific technical environments of each campus and will not force any technology changes into the campus technical environment.

The requirement definition defines the Effort Reporting System as a web-based, interactive system to replace the old A21/PAR system. Therefore additional assumptions have been made and are outlined below:

- the code base will be java/J2EE for maximum portability.
- the implementation will accommodate all major application server technologies with no use of proprietary features specific to any web/application server.
- a non-specific relational database management system (dbms) [e.g., Sybase, Oracle, DB2] will house the data. Use of proprietary features specific to a single DBMS will be avoided to insure system portability.
- interfaces are through web services wherever practical.
- System interfaces to other applications/systems will be thru a documented API or other mechanism that will be generic and not campus specific.
- Presentation layer will be adaptable to both the "look and feel" of the campus and be usable by a wide range of client browser software.
- The application will be adaptable to be used within a "portal" environment.
- web transactions will be encrypted for security.

PPS Discussion – interface to data sources

A critical source of data for the ERS will be PPS/PAR data. Major discussion points revolve around the access mechanism to this data for Effort Reporting System. Decisions need to be made about whether to replicate the necessary data within the Effort Reporting

System for use in generating the necessary reports or to access the data thru web services or other remote procedure call mechanisms. This will require further exploration with the Technical Advisory Group at the beginning of the development phase. In addition, the use of the FAU specific to each campus will have to be included in these discussions. *However, there is no intention of building/integrating the ERS into the old PPS COBOL/CICS code base.*

Other System Interfaces

The Effort Reporting System will need to access data from other campus systems. Some of these systems will be unique to each campus. For example, each campus uses different authentication/authorization systems. Interfaces to local campus systems will need to be developed in a modular manner such that customization of the interfaces to the local system context can be accomplished without detriment to the common ERS code base.
The Technical Advisory Group will need to discuss the interface methodology in order to assess the development effort required for campus customization of these interfaces. The Effort Reporting System development will provide a flexible, modular interface to these campus unique systems.
The Technical Advisory Group will need to catalog the system interfaces by campus that will need to be addressed by the Effort Reporting System during implementation.