STUDY CASE OF A COLLABORATION PORTAL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC PROJECT

Marcin Trycz and Luciano Catani

NFN Istituto Naz di Fisica Nu

INFN e Università Roma Tor Vergata, Via della Ricerca Scientifica 1, Roma, Italy



a View a View a View a View

In this paper we present the results of the design, development and preliminary evaluation tests of a web-based collaboration portal aimed at supporting the teamwork of an international scientific collaboration.

In the academic research environment often people use very simple collaboration tools, usually chosen out of habit. In the case of international collaborative projects, in which people don't work physically in the same place for most of the time, these important tools are far from being effective and appropriate. For instance, a collaborative scientific project is made of teams of specialists from different research institutions and countries that need to share files, drawings, pictures, software etc. and document the progress of their work. The different tasks of the project are managed by work groups (WGs) of specialists that organize their work by scheduling meetings, workshops and by setting deadlines. Quite often a single researcher contributes to more than one work group.

The aim of our Portal is to offer a suite of web instruments fulfilling the above requirements without adding extra complexity to the procedures the scientists are familiar with.

STRUCTURE & WORKFLOW

Each user of the Portal is	IRVUX.EU	IRVUX.EU Intranet Portal Tor Vercata News Locrook Documents Rack to home		IRVUX.EU Intranet Portal Tor Versiata Inter Logrook documents back to home		IRVUX.EU Intranet Portal Tor VIRGATA REWS LOCEBOOK DOCUMENTS BACK TO HOME	
a member of an	Intranet Portal SUEST WELCOME NEWS WORKGROUPS ORGANIZATION HOME	Calendar	Toggle Edit Controls Dever Panel My Account Sign Out Search	Blogs	Toggle Edit Controls Control Panel My Account Sign Out Recent Bloggers	Document Library	Toggle Edit Controls Control Panel My Account Sign Out
Organization and	Toggle Edit Control Panel My Account Sign Out	Summary Day Week Month Year Events Saturday September 25, 2010 Time Title Typ S M N Y F S There are no events on the strength of the strengt of the strength of the strength of the strengt of th	Per Bookmarks All My Entries	Please find attached the current NFN logo. PAttachments:	Search Usano Catani Stars: 0 Bate: 9/2/10 Watch Trycz Stars: 0 Stars: 0/2015	Folders My Documents Recent Documents Folders = Root Add Subtooer	

participates in one or more workgroups. All Organizations and Workgroups have a dedicated workspace, and there is also a general workspace containing information about the project as a whole. All of the workspaces

have their own set of

pages and applications,



that commonly contains a Organization/Workgroup homepage with a Calendar and other tools, a dedicated page for the Logbook and one for the Document Library.

The structure, functionality, layout and appearance of the workspaces can be further customized according to the Workgroup's specific needs and managed separately.

ntranet Portal		Intranet Portal		Intranet Portal	
COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION NEWS LOGBOOK DOCUMENTS BACK TO HOME BUG REPORT		COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION NEWS LOGBOOK DOCUMENTS BACK TO HOME BUG REPORT		COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION NEWS LOGBOOK DOCUMENTS BACK TO HOME	BUG REPORT
	Toggle Edit Controls Control Party My Account Sign Out	Тор	gle Edit Controls Control Panel My Account Con Out	Add Application Layo	ut Template Toggle Edit Controls Manage Pages
Calendar	search	Logbook	Recent Bloggers	Document Library	Recent E
Summary Day Week Month Year Events Export / Import	Search	Comments for New User Concept Search Add Blog Entry	Monika Illenseer Monika Illenseer Posts: 19	Folders My Documents Recent Documents	▶EuroFEL ■ distribu
Saturday September 25, 2010 Add Event		Included you find some comments from Annika und Heinz (WP2 input).	Stars: 0 Date: 4/23/10	Search Search Folders Add Folder Permissions	
SMTWTFS 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 Time Title Type	Bookmarks	Regards, Monika	Luciano Catani Posts: 5	Folder # of Folders # of Docum	
5 6 7 8 9 10 11 There are no events on this day.	All My Entries		Luciano Catani Posts: 5 Stars: 0 Date: 3/3/10	New Users Concept 0 5	ৰ 🥔 Actions
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 Showing 0 results.	Add Entry	@ Attachments: EuroFEL NewLicer 060420100 docConcent to reach new u() doc	Marcin Trycz	Newsletter 0 2	Kations
EuroFEL Portal Poveropment	Welcome Marcin Trycz!	EuroFEL Portal Development	Welcome Marcin Ireneusz Tryczt 🛛 👻	EuroFEL Development	
FREE ELECTRON LASERS OF EUROPE	Add Page	FREE ELECTRON LASERS OF EUROPE		FREE ELECTRON LASERS OF EUROPE	
A News Logbook Documents Back to Home	(Aussige	E News → Logbook Documents Back to Home		News Logbook > Documents Back to Home	
		D		C Document Library	
Calendar	Servin	St Logbook	Recent Bloggers		
Summary Day Week Month Year Events Export / Import	Search Q	Al Portal Screenshots for PCaPAC Search Ac Search Ac	dd Blog Entry Marcin Trycz Posts: 12	Folders My Documents Recent Documents	
Saturday September 25, 2010 Add Event Permissions	Bookmarks	The We can use them for the PCaPAC poster and powerpoint.	Stars: 0 Date: 9/25/10	E Folder 2	
S M T W T F S		Regards,	Luciano Catani Posts: S	SI	
29 30 31 1 2 3 4 Time Title Type 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 Three are no events on this day.	All My Entries	Ki Martin	Stare: 0	Ac Add Subfolder	
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 Showing 0 results.	Add Entry	Minimum and Antonia an	Date: S/10/10	Folder # of Folders	# of Documents
19 20 21 22 23 24 25	Name Modified Date	Attachments		Showing 0 results.	
28 27 28 29 30 1 2	Showing 0 results.			Documents	
Activities	Recent Documents	collaboration documents png communication logbook.png dev homepage p	ng	Search Search Search this Folder Add Document Add	
September 8	Very Very long filename with ten thousand characters.bt	📎 pcapac 📎 screenshots			a shortcut
Marcin uploaded a new document, <u>Very Very long filename with ten thousand characters</u> .	Catani-Trycz_paper(1).doc Catani-Trycz_paper.pdf			Name	Size Downloads
12:45 AM <u>View Document Go to Folder</u> B Marcin uploaded a new document, <u>Catani Trvcz paper 1</u> .	Fig.8.pdf Fig.9.pdf	About PCaPAC paper Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipisicing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut en	in ad minim	alfresco png	<u>334.2k</u> <u>0</u>
12:44 AM View Document Go to Folder		veriam, quis nostrui exercitation ullamoo laboris nisi ut aliquip ex a commodo consequat.		Fig. 8 pdf	289.6k 1
Marcin wrote a new blog entry, Lorem losum dolor sit amet. 12:44 AM		Duis aute inure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidat proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.	at non	WP5 Minutes Todo 10032010.pdf	<u>699.0k</u> 1
August 31				WP5 Minutes Todo 10032010(2).pdf	<u>699.0k</u>
Marcin uploaded a new document, <u>Catani-Trvcz paper (1)</u> . 2-28 PM <u>View Document Go to Folder</u>		**************************************		Showing 5 results.	
Marcin wrote a new blog entry, <u>Updated Draft for PCaPAC</u> . 228 PM		Attachmenta:		Access from my desktop,	
2.20 Fil	Settings Online Friends (0)		Settings Online Friends (1)		

HOMEPAGE & APPLICATIONS

			_					
EST WELCOME NEWS	WORKGRO	UPS	ORGAN	NIZATION	НОМЕ			
						Toggle Edit Controls	Manage Pages Control Pan	el My Account Sign Out
1								Return to Full Page
alendar								Return to Full Page
Summary Day Week Mo	nth Year	Events	s Exp	oort / Im	port			
Saturday	Sept	ember	25, 20	010	Add Event Permissions			
Saturday	S M	тw	Т	FS				
	29 30	31 1	2	3 4	Time	Title	Туре	
	5 6	7 8	9	10 11	8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	Deadline for poster draft	Other	🔹 🥜 Actions
15	12 13	14 15	16	17 18	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Open Doors	Anniversary	🔹 🥜 Actions

Search		🗢 Return to Full Page
IruvX Q		
Bookmarks		Blogs
# Summary	Tags	# Summary Tags
IRUVX logo 1. http://intranet-sparx.roma2.infn.it/image/image_gallery?uuid=c587681d-c922-4b2f- b3e8-4b1e1a459cea&groupId=10303&t=1258410204831	gif, logo, picture	, first candidate IRUVX collaboration portal.
IRUVX website requirements http://iruvx.sparx-fel.eu/web/communication-and-dissemination/home?p_p_id=64&p_p_lifecycle=18 2. p p state=exclusive&p p mode=view&p p col id=column-2&p p col pos=2&p p col count=3&	k website, collaboration	 Please note that the functionalities, layout and organization of the portal are still under development and subject
_64_struts_action=%2Frecent_documents%2Fget_file&_64_folderId=10519&_64_name=DLFE- 101.pdf	tools, portal	More »
Showing 2 results.		Calendar
		# Summary Tags No results were found that matched the keywords: iruvx.
		More »
		Document Library
		# Summary Tags

Upon authentication, the user is presented with his/her Homepage, which is the start point for the Portal's navigation.

It presents information relevant to the whole project, the latest news relevant to the user and links to the user's Organization workspace and Workgroup workspaces. The user's Homepage generally contains a set of standard applications.



The Calendar allows management of events and deadlines. The events are timezone sensitive; users can be reminded of relevant events through an automated email system. The Bookmarks permit to highlight important content and links.

🛛 🝰 Lea

🝰 Leav

🔬 Lea

Request Members

🔓 Request Membersl

Request Membersh

Request Members

The advanced Search feature enables searching content in full-text mode; the user can focus the search on a particular content type or Workgroup.

The Activities list the latest actions in the user's Workgroups.

The dedicated Workgroup interface allows users to manage their

membership in the Workgroups. It also permits the Workgroup's admins to grant membership to users that applied for it.

In addition to the user's Homepage each Organization and Workgroup has it's own Homepage containing information specific to the scope of that Organization/Workgroup.

LOGBOOK & DOCUMENT LIBRARY

The Logbook and the Document Library are the core of the portal's functionality. The Logbook is the main tool for sharing information and documenting the progress of the collaboration. The Document Library is the repository for the files uploaded to the Portal. It works in synergy with the Logbook, but it can also be used by itself.

The Logbook's edit page has a simple and friendly interface; there are the usual Title and Content sections, and an Attachments section.

The entries can also be tagged to simplify categorization of content and search features.



In the Attachments section the user is prompted to choose the file to upload and the destination Folder.

The folder list follows the structure defined in the Document Library, including subdirectories.

After the upload the files can be accessed either through the entry's link or by using the dedicated Document Library interface. All of the entries and text-based documents (.txt, .doc, .pdf, ...) are indexed in full-text mode, simplifying the search of the archived content.

olders My Docum	nents Recent Documents				
olders »					
Prototype w	vebsite development				
Add Subfolder					
Add Subloider					
Folder	# of Folders	# of Documents	5		Action
Showing 0 results.					
ocuments					
Search	Search this Folder Add	Document Add Shortcut			
Name		Size	Downloads	Locked	
EuroFEL_Websit	te_forall_final.xls	39.0k	2	No	Q View
EuroFEL_websit	e_layouts_070410.pdf	426.4k	9	No	Q View
EuroFEL_websit	e_wirframes_06052010.pdf	542.8k	0	No	Q View
EuroFEL_websit	e_wirframes_070410.pdf	548.2k	12	No	Q View
screenshot.png		94.4k	0	No	🔹 🥜 Actions
Showing 5 results.					

Why would you want it ?

It's a collaboration tool: it helps you and your colleagues working together to a common effort;
it helps documenting the activities and allows archiving content in a single shared space;
it's flexible and expandable: you can add more application when you need them;
it's customizable: it can be easily adapted to your project structure and particular needs.