

Portal Solutions for University Information Systems with the LMS Integration

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Increasing number of different information systems for management of universities including the application of LMS systems result in the need integration as well as the need of an uniform system with one login for any and all activities related to a successful study for students, pedagogical and other employees, including other persons interested in information. Portal meets these features. Portal represents the integration platform for both existing and newly implemented information systems. It is established based on the uniform modular authorization, which may be changed at the level of the administrator. System is established based on three layer architecture, which fully use the server services without putting a load to the client part. Subject matter concerns a platform represented by a group of integrated products, enabling effective user co-operation within the work processes. Present paper is focused to make clear the role and architecture for portal solutions, suitable for universities.

Accounting and studying systems represented the core of previous university information systems predominantly. As a rule, systems were both designed for different software environments and as insulated ones, without mutual communication. Database oriented and interlinked systems, which, however did not enabled remote access thru internet, were established, and featured with gradual requirements focused to the functioning of all university information systems, volume of processed data, reliability and safety. Remote access requirement may be ensured thru the three-layer architecture of client-server type, featured with user graphic interface, where internet browser becomes the basic access tool. Application server, enabling utilization of components made by different vendors (if it respects interface standards) becomes the unifying element of this architecture. Under increasing need of integration of all information systems of the university as well as considering the necessity of uniform login system the current state-of-art emphasize application of portal technologies, based on a group of integrated products, enabling effective co-operation of users over working processes.

University Portal Technologies

Needs and requirements of universities to make their own information accessible thru portals are nowadays in contradiction with the offer of customer oriented portal solutions. Most of offered portal products is focused only to specified business issues (business case), while do not solve different university environments.

Integration of University Applications into a Portal

Reason why a university needs to integrate the main applications sooner or later is interconnecting of said applications, which may not be further operated as “insulated data islands”. This may took place even thru a portal.

Need in Portal Solution for LMS

Basic requirements put on the LMS (Learning Management System) from the point of view of teacher needs, is to present the documents to be learned, to manage learning process, to communicate with students, motivate them for learning, to monitor student’s progress and evaluate him/her. A threat of the LMS choice is the evaluation, how this system would co-operate with information systems, which were implements within the institution (university) already.