

PORTAL IMPLEMENTATION IN THE SUPERIOR SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY IN SETÚBAL – KEY ISSUES AND EVALUATION

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Nowadays organizations and institutions face a important challenge, information systems that support their core business are information islands, usually not integrated. Their key issue is to integrate the existing information systems, using a middleware integrator, to develop a new information system and migrate the old ones, or to adapt an existing system, already validated and with given proves that it really works well. With this last approach it will also be needed to migrate and integrate the old in use systems. This last one was the approach we used in our institution.

The Superior School of Technology of Setúbal is part of a five schools structure in Setúbal – the Politechnical Institute of Setúbal an education public institution

This project started five years ago, when the institution felt that some existing information systems were islands of information and that the stakeholders of the education process needed to have access to their information online. To this institution, has their students reside far from the school and many of them work during the day and study at night, it was a competitive advantage to give them access to lectures, and to all the important school data, This way they would not need to be in the school to have access to the information they need in the education process.

This paper describes the reasons why the institution decided to adapt an existing platform and makes a balance from the functionalities stakeholders used to have prior to the implementation of the platform and after the implementation.

On other and the paper describes the used methodology to implement the existing platform and the portal, and also analyses the key issues for the success of the implementation.

Application integration is a key issue nowadays. The paper also describes the main application integrations that are in progress. For example, the lectures scheduling application is a third party developed application. An application integration project is in progress in order to integrate with the new portal platform. The paper also describes this particular integration focusing the main issues that had been analysed.

Stakeholders fulfilled an online survey, generated by the portal platform, in order to evaluate the efficiency and the usability of the portal. The results from this survey are presented and some future work is proposed.