

05_22_2008 EvalSys Team Meeting (Adobe Connect)

Sakai Course Evaluation Meeting
05/21/2008

Attendees:

Sean, U-M
Dick, U-M
Aaron, Cambridge
Hattie, Cambridge
Ellen, Maryland
Rick, Maryland
Seth, Columbia

Objective: Update the Sakai community on recent pilot results and discuss proposed future work to ensure technical alignment

Agenda:

0. Update on what's in 1.2 (5 minutes, Aaron)

- Multiple choice & multiple answer
- Extra blocking support
- Reporting "fixed up" (html & Excel, CSV, PDF export)
- Ad hoc groups rough around the edges
- Ability to reopen evaluations; close early
- copying items & scales
- commenting on multi choice; multi-scale
- hierarchy improvements
- email templating
- mark items to include in a set (tagging; building block for full hierarchy)
 - not yet in UI
- Hattie to work on internal docs; not necessarily for end-user use

1. Update on U-M's Fall planning: requirements review and design implications (30 minutes, Sean & Dick)

- Project overview
 - Fall commitment (begins in early Sept with several eval windows, including end of term which starts in Sept->Dec
 - 6-10x increase over pilots
 - (30k possible evaluations, 8300 submitted evaluations; 7k possible participants, 3k submitted)
 - Dates:
 - dev through end of June; QC to follow (functional testing)
 - cap testing starting mid July
 - Group definition requirement being put off for now
- Technical changes:
 - Email handling (Dick)
 - one email per student
- Performance monitoring (Dick)

2. Updates from each institution on plans and any resource changes coming in the future (10 minutes)

- Maryland: Considering adding dept level hierarchy for Fall
- Maryland: looking to hire Sakai programmer (end of summer target?)
- Columbia: "keeping an eye on things" for the moment
- Cambridge: pilot OK, but lost some data
 - go live w/1.2 in October
 - desire to pretty up the templates and UI over summer

3. Update on the Maryland pilot (Ellen, 10 minutes)

- Assessment office entered evaluations and manually created hierarchy
- Colleges added their own questions; instructor items were duplicated for each instructor
- 15 University wide questions
- 5294 courses, 123k possible evals
- 76000 completed (62%; just below Fall rate of 63%)
- Second eval run due to missed courses
- 12430 evals on busiest day; 2647 in busiest hour
- reminders every 4 days, last 3 days were every day
- lower response rate for schools with instructor added questions
 - survey fatigue?
 - worst case was crosslisted (3 instructors + institutional q's)
 - 69 questions; evaluations get long fast
- ran for 2 weeks
- summer sessions 1 week each using same version of software
- initial email handled with external mail app; reminders via Sakai
 - modified email reminder for last message
- power outage took down eval system; reminders resent
- very few help desk tickets

4. Next Steps (Sean, 5 minutes)

- Do we need another meeting?
- Maryland technical performance issue
 - what's been done with Maryland observed performance issues?
 - in 1.1; currently only on Maryland branch; need to resolve tech approach
- Conference presentation details (if known)
- Best source of info on ad hoc evaluation support?; available instance?
- Tool road map (concerns over outdated Confluence space; new schools using tool?)

5. Action Items:

Action Item: Aaron to share aspectJ sample with Dick for profiling

Action Item: Sean to send out meeting notes and schedule next meeting