

# **FLUID Project Launch Meeting – Notes**

*April 19-20, 2007*

*University of Toronto*

## **In Attendance**

### **University of Toronto**

- \* Jutta Treviranus
- \* Colin Clark
- \* Michelle D'Souza
- \* Joseph Scheuhammer
- \* Jonathan Hung
- \* David Bolter
- \* Simon Bates

### **York University**

- \* Ron Owston
- \* Peter Rowley
- \* Herb Wideman

### **University of British Columbia**

- \* Jens Haeusser
- \* Paul Zablosky

### **UC Berkeley**

- \* Mara Hancock
- \* Daphne Ogle
- \* Seamus Byrne (via videoconference on Thursday)

### **Cambridge University**

- \* John Norman (on Friday)

## **Roles, Partners, Participants**

### **Project Manager**

- \* The ATRC has a good candidate for the FLUID project manager position
- \* In the meantime, Colin and Jutta will fill in until someone is hired

### **UBC**

- \* Lead: Jens Haeusser
- \* Primarily working on uPortal and Kuali Student
- \* FLUID will focus on v3 of uPortal, although will try to make portlets work with the Fluid framework in v2.00.
- \* Kuali Student is just starting development; will be kept on the side until a large

proposal is submitted to Mellon

- \* Will contract a UX designer

### **UC Berkeley**

- \* Lead: Mara Hancock
- \* Focussing on user design, design patterns, to help define the components
- \* Defining the user driven design process
- \* Will focus on implementation in Sakai
- \* Will integrate Fluid into Sakai
- \* Staff will include Mara, Daphne, UI Designer/Developer (Seamus), a lead developer, interaction designer (new), and a UI developer (new)

### **York**

- \* Lead: Ron Owston
- \* Experience with "non-traditional usability studies": learning outcomes for users and students, and the context of use.
- \* Will study how the software works once it has been published to the community.
- \* Virtual usability lab: Remote usability testing
- \* York is moving from WebCT to Moodle, will look at integrating Fluid into Moodle
- \* Herb will do user research
- \* York will move VUlab from prototype to production level, will remove dependence on commercial software, expect VUlab to be usable for Fluid usability testing by end of first year

### **Michigan State**

- \* Lead: Mike Elledge
- \* Experience performing user testing, one-on-one
- \* Find accessibility problems and recommend UI changes
- \* Usability lab (UAC) will be used for user testing and accessibility testing

### **University of Colorado**

- \* Lead: Clayton Lewis, HCI professor
- \* Exper in accessibility for people with cognitive impairments
- \* Will provide usability advice and support

### **Cambridge**

- \* Lead: John Norman
- \* Strong background in terms of software architecture
- \* Java architecture, Sakai integration (Antranig Basman)
- \* Will help with creating ccessible UI components

### **IBM**

- \* Lead: Rich Schwerdtfeger
- \* Author of ARIA specifications at the W3C
- \* IBM is highly involved in Ajax accessibility
- \* Advisory role

## **Sun**

- \* Lead: Earl Johnson
- \* Security expertise?
- \* Advisory role

## **Mozilla Foundation**

- \* Funding for Doj-related accessibility work

## **Communication and Collaboration Plan**

- \* need to come up with a communications plan today
- \* agreed there will be a monthly teleconference meeting for everybody
- \* website will be used for mailing lists (will be archived with access from wiki), wiki, bug tracking, source code sharing, IM, IRC Chat, video conferencing (Breeze)
- \* Colin reported that we are negotiating a Confluence license for the wiki, we're having some trouble getting it free
- \* we need a glossary of terms to forge agreement and facilitate communication with non-technical participants
- \* Dave Bolter described use of IRC channels, will give it a try
- \* nice to have video channels always open, perhaps into Fluid project room, Ron will see about using Breeze for this
- \* most partners have access to Polycom video-conferencing systems, but these are not convenient for informal meetings due to need to reserve in advance, could have bridge from computer to Polycom PVS, H323 compliant
- \* Jens at UBC may be able to offer a small Polycom bridge
- \* would be nice to have a streaming server for video clips, good for UX discussions
- \* team meetings should be weekly, want to avoid silos though
- \* face-to-face meetings can be most efficiently accomplished by leveraging off events such as uPortal and Sakai conferences
- \* discussed pros and cons of various possible dates and locations for next face-to-face meeting
- \* need to represent roles on public site, will set up wiki profiles and each person can update their own
- \* need to pay attention to honouring confidentiality for test subjects: will have private spaces on the wiki for this
- \* monthly meeting will be the first Wed. of each month at 11:00AM EDT as this works for UK and west coast, first meeting will be Wed. May 2, will be announced on work email list

## **Governance**

*See RACI chart set up by Colin for further info*

## **Governance Needs**

- \* Dispute resolution/compromises

- \* Advice and expertise
- \* Coordination (silo prevention), scheduling
- \* Resource allocation
- \* Driving the big-picture, whole vision
- \* Functional & technical councils
- \* Motivation/recognition of contributions
- \* Keeping track of project activities
- \* Prioritization
- \* Outreach and communication
- \* Personnel reporting
- \* Acceptance criteria

### **Board**

- \* money role, pecuniary interests of funders and our universities
- \* manages relationship with Mellon and other funders
- \* reporting to funders
- \* accountable for deliverables

### **Advisory Committee**

- \* members don't represent specific projects; "wear many hats"; have broad expertise.
- \* handles deadlocks and conflicts among the projects

### **Working Groups**

- \* Core decision-making for project direction
- \* Dispute resolution
- \* Prioritization

### **Miscellaneous**

#### **Moodle**

- \* will deliver a design for a toolkit for UI development, no technology
- \* Fluid deliverables such as usability results, UX, heuristics, personas, design patterns will be applicable to Moodle

#### **U-Camps**

- \* Design workshops & talks
- \* Hands-on activities related to UX
  - heuristic reviews
  - design advice/reviews of in-progress software
  - prioritization and synthesis of pain points
- \* Opportunity to bring developers and UX people together
- \* What is the perfect U-Camp?
  - triage and prevention
  - live demos and accessibility reviews
  - usability testing clips

**People who need to be happy**

- \* Individuals with disabilities
- \* Community members
- \* End users of Sakai, uPortal, etc.
- \* Integrators and “customizers (including system administrators)
- \* User support & trainers
- \* Developers of components and portlets
- \* Funders and our universities (we set our success criteria, but they need to be measurable and communicated)

**Upcoming Conferences**

- \* uPortal Developer Workshop, next week
- \* Sakai, Amsterdam, June 10-14
- \* JA-SIG, Denver, June 22-25
- \* MoodleMoot UK, October 2007
- \* Educause, October
- \* Sakai, Newport Beach, December 2007
- \* JA-SIG, December?