

Software Architecture Working Group
Minutes of September 25, 2008 Meeting

October 6, 2008

Agenda

1. Goals
2. Quick Updates – R4.5.2, Fedora Migration, and NJVid update
3. Annotation specification
4. Faculty Survey
5. Release summary review

Goals

Ron reviewed the proposed goals for AY 2008/2009 which covered the SCC, the Software Architecture Working Group, and Web Services. Many of these goals are either in progress now or are extensions from last year's goals. It was noted that there may be some overlap with Systems goals in the areas of ETDs and open source deliveries. This overlap and potential redundancy will be removed when TAS Heads meet with Grace.

R4.5.2 Status

R4.5.2 is the release to plug the Fedora security hole. As agreed upon in the previous meeting, our approach requires blocking access to port 8080. Appropriate changes have been made to relevant software areas (Showfed, dlr/EDIT) and tested. No changes were required in WMS. Kalaivani will do further testing of our portals and if all goes well, this release will be delivered to Systems next week for installation on mss2 and for delivery to the public during the week of October 10.

Fedora 3.0 Migration

Jeffery reported that all the legacy IDs (“DS”) had been mapped to the appropriate functional IDs and content models have been created for the 15 approved content models. Ingest of all objects into Fedora 2.2.3 is required as a first step and this step is being executed “as we speak”. We should be able to restart R5.0 and 5.1 development on lefty64 next week (i.e. week of September 29). For testing of R5.0, we will need to install a copy of the mss3 dlrcollections database on lefty64. In a related note, we decided development servers (lefty and lefty64) should be accessible from outside the Rutgers network (i.e. VPN is not needed to access these machines). In particular, it was felt that development servers should have the same configuration as production servers to make sure we catch as many problems in development before moving to production.

NJVid Update

Isaiah indicated that about 30 videos are ready to ingest and that Mary Beth will begin ingesting next week. Average duration for these videos is about 20 – 30 minutes thus reducing storage requirements on mss3. Chad will start working with William Paterson representatives to move ahead with the NJVid

portal development. As part of this discussion, we decided to move ahead with jpeg thumbnail datastreams versus the current mechanism of dynamic generation. Chad and Jeffery will bring a specification on this work to the sw_arch group.

Annotation Requirements

Chad began the review of annotation requirements. The current recommendation is to store each annotation as a separate object regardless of the creator or target source object. Ron voiced some concern about this maximum granularity approach. Although it is a reasonable architectural approach, we need to convince ourselves that we can manage compound objects that are composed of many objects with relationships created through rels-ext. We ran out of time on this review and will bring it back into sw_arch in a subsequent meeting.

Revised Release Strategy

Ron indicated that we need to revise our release strategy and try to organize smaller releases that are focused more narrowly on a specific application area (e.g. NJVid). This approach has the potential of reducing both development and testing complexity and, therefore, should ultimately reduce intervals and improve quality. Ron will revise the release schedule starting with a proposed code complete date for R5.1 of February 17, 2008.

Pending Items for Next Meeting

- Faculty survey review
- Specification for jpeg thumbnails
- Shibboleth requirements in R5.0
- Revised release summary
- Continue review of the annotation spec