Status Update: Course Guide Project
Summer 2008

Our project team has spent the summer working on the design of the Course Guide interface. Our goal is to ensure that the interface works seamlessly with other systems on campus.

Because of our interdependency with many other campus systems, we have reevaluated our rollout timeline. We are now targeting a spring or summer 2009 release; this will allow us to integrate a class scheduler into the course guide.

Below is a summary of the design decisions that were made in our work this summer.

High Level Overview of Design Decisions:

• Relationship with My-UW Portal:
  o Course Guide project will be deployed in the My-UW Portal.
  o There will be authorized (student, faculty, staff) and public access to the Course Guide module in My-UW.

• Relationship with Course Catalog:
  o Course Guide will replace the course listings currently found in the Course Catalog.
  o Course Guide will display some department information currently found in the Course Catalog.

• Infrastructure for Planning:
  o To facilitate course planning, the Course Guide will show two future terms of course information and display the last time a course was taught.
  o Users will be able to browse for courses by title (including topics titles), by department, instructor or college.
  o Users will be able to filter results while browsing or search to find courses which meet attributes for breadth, ethnic studies, Communications A&B, Quantitative Reasoning A&B, particular terms or course levels.
  o The design allows for additional filters to be added as new information becomes available to the Course Guide.
  o Users will be able to save courses into favorites lists. Lists might hold courses for a major, for a particular term or by favorite instructors, etc.

• Detail Information Provided:
  o Information on a particular course will include its description, attributes, pre-requisites, cross-listed courses, sections, textbooks, materials, instructors and any section or topic level description.
  o Information on a particular instructor includes contact information, department information and a list of courses this instructor teaches. In a future release instructor- provided content, such as teaching style or syllabi, will be added.
  o Information on a particular department includes department descriptions, instructors for this department and a list of courses. Future releases will offer departments the opportunity to display additional information.

• Design of the interface for version 1 is near completion.
• Database and web-service design began in August.
Sub-System Integration & Progress:

- **Web Content Management System by RedDot:**
  - Has been purchased, deployed and early adopters have received training.
  - Additional training is planned.
  - A management model needs to be created for working with departments using RedDot.
  - An instructor template needs to be revised to match the management model established.

- **Curricular Hub (CHUB):**
  - ISIS tables have been copied to new database and some have been transformed into CHUB tables.
  - Additional modeling of the CHUB tables will occur in August to support Course Guide’s needs.
  - Textbook data will be held in ISIS from now on. Textbook data has been pulled into the CHUB tables for consumption by Course Guide.

- **My-UW Portal:**
  - My-UW is upgrading to u-portal 3.0 in the end of October.
  - The Course Guide application is dependent upon features available in u-portal 3.0.
  - Additional configurations are necessary in order for My-UW to meet Course Guide needs.

- **Enterprise Service Bus by Cape Clear:**
  - ESB is installed.
  - Middleware is planning to engage a consultant to assist with the design needed to support Course Guide, CRIS, and others.
  - The date that the ESB is available to Course Guide is unknown.

- **Scheduler:**
  - We plan to integrate Course Guide favorites with a scheduler program to assist students with planning their schedules.
  - A UW-Madison student wrote a scheduler program of which we will be expanding in order to make it compatible with the Course Guide architecture and features.
  - Work on the scheduler will begin soon.