Portals

* a Portal is a web site acting as a centralized location for other websites. It directs users to the best websites for specific or general topics. Different portals help users to find information and products of interest faster.

* By using Portals businesses can try to strengthen their brands and build a customer base for generating revenue.

* Portals also provide services, such as e-mail accounts, search engines, chat services message forums, stock information and access to news groups.

* There are two types of Portal

   • Vertical
   • Horizontal

* a vertical Portal (aka Vortal) is dedicated to a specific field.
Each link on the site pertains to a Particular website; each of the same specified topic for example womens issues.

Examples of Vortals are
            www.cnet.com
            www.slashdot.com.

(Portals contd).

Other examples of vortals are intranets and
extranets. They are also dedicated to a
specific topic and provide links to the
external websites that focus on that topic.
Intranets are sometimes referred to as
corporate portals.

HORIZONTAL Portals:
These provide links to websites focusing
on diverse topics, such as news,
shopping and travelling.
Examples of Horizontal portals are Yahoo
and Netscape.

WIKIS
A portal can be developed using a wiki.
A wiki is a website that allows a web
sites visitor to collaborate in its
construction
A wiki uses specialized web based
software, called wiki software, that allow
the visitors to update the site using
a web browser and to create an
information repository or a portal.

* When constructing a website, the wiki software co-ordinates with a web server to generate pages in HTML or XHTML.
These pages can then be rendered using a web browser
The wiki website allows specific pages to be locked, while leaving others available for public or permitted editing

* Portland Pattern Repository was the first wiki web server to be established. Wikipedia, Linux Questions.org, open facts and 'memory alpha' are other examples of wiki sites.

* Most wiki sites are written in a simplified markup language called LATEX.

* This language accomodates the fast paced nature of wiki websites.

* other examples are OPENS wiki, WIKI BASE, WIKI choice tree and JSP wiki