Web Services Working Group VTC 22June2011 Notes

Attending: Mason Kortz (CCE/PAL), Suzanne Remillard (AND), James Conners (CCE/PAL), M.Gastil-Buhl (MCR), and Corinna Gries (NTL) (phone)

IMC webpage: http://im.lternet.edu/projects/webservices/meeting_notes

Working Prototype: http://sunshine.lternet.edu/personnelDB/

All the processing is server-side. No client-side scripting. Stable but not slick.

Where we are at now:
Missing features: no Edit restrictions based on site. (can add a person from any site). Design has hierarchy of permissions to add or edit at your site not other sites.

Permissions: chicken+egg. Info about who is related to what site is in old personnelDB. Will be migrating that to ldap. That transfer has not yet happened at LNO. Until ldap is updated, we do not have the authorization part in place. Have to rely on old personnelDB for that until tfr. Need to schedule changes coord w/LNO. Authentication & Authorization.

Missing interface: adding new roles, specific to site. NSF roles are static. Local roles a site IM can add site-specific roles. There is a WS interface for updating roles, a POST. But no GUI yet.

Documentation is not complete. Mason- did doc mysql. Wade doc'ed xml outputs well. TODO: inputs to WS. (Mason will do)

Suzanne – bulk upload.
Mason – support for bulk upload exists at WS level.

The GUI compiles input and pkgs as xml and sends to WS. The WS supports bulk uploads. No mixed single and bulk.

Suzanne – attach a file for upload.
Mason – can attach an xml file to a POST and WS will take it. Will add to list TODO.

How to handle personal information.
The WS gets login access info along with all calls. Contents of directory viewable by public but some parts restricted. Mask emails and phone from automatic harvesting (spammers). The current directory does make those public.

Suzanne – masking emails is good practice. Doesn't current directory have opt-in box for certain info to be displayed.

Mason – we have an opt-out option. A person can opt-out. We did not decide what that meant.
Biographical information
The personnelDB will contain identity, site affiliation, roles, and contact.
Biographical info will go into separate application, "ProfileDB". Marsh talked about implementing that in drupal as part of the LTER Network group of drupal sites.

The PersonnelDB will be updated separately by LNO, Site IM, designated people. Whereas ProfileDB will be updated by researchers themselves.

See summary on google doc http://goo.gl/EaZXf WSWG_PersDB_bifurcation.doc

Mason's last day in LTER is this Friday, 1 July. Does have free time in July and August in an Open Source sense.

Gastil will write Users Guide.

The service layer is finished. You can read information for people. Can get a list of roles, list of sites.
You can add, update people and roles.

When WS documentation is done will see how to make WS calls to get, for example, a list to populate a drop-down or get EML snippets for people.

Corinna – where will documentation go?
Mason – check into the svn repo. We have directories for code and documentation.

https://svn.lternet.edu/websvn/listing.php?repname=WSWG

svn checkout https://svn.lternet.edu/svn/WSWG/personnelDB currently 2.7 Mb at revision 116.

Also will post to IMC website as part of WSWG project. Should we create a separate PersonnelDB Project for docs and buglist?

Corinna – maybe once written it is not a project, but a resource.

Suzanne – notes from Feb meeting? Pls post to IMC site. (put link here)

Mason – how it works:
Add a person – fill in form and hit submit. Form sends data to php which builds xml file and sends that xml to the WS. Each URL for the WS identifies a specific resource: a person, role, or site or list.
Once you have that URL you can
        GET to show whatever is at that URL
        POST or PUT to put description into the db

To View, do a GET request on a person

An xsl stylsheet is applied on server site to translate the xml into html for web view.

You will not see the URLs for the GUI pages.
The WS url looks like sunshine.lternet.edu/services/personnelDB/person/179
Means go to the personnelDB WS and get the person xml for person #179

The WS urls resemble a file path.

The WSWG in general.
Mason will not be at the IMC this year.
Organize working group? Become chair?

Rough priorities: personnel, then biblio. Then SiteDB. And ProfileDB. No schedule but rough list of future projects.

Suzanne – will WSWG meet at ICM? Only time for a few group meetings. Will something happen prior to the IMC meeting? Need to keep rolling.

Mason – need to get personnelDB into use before starting next DB.

Mason would like to keep abreast of LTER goings-on.

Would be grateful to be allowed to continue participating in the WG even though not officially LTER anymore.

Summary:
Mason will work on 4 or 5 things before Sept when school starts. Whole month of August off so can wrap up then. Before IMC these short-term items should be wrapped up.

Need help with ldap thing? Mason will talk to JamesB about migrating authentication to LDAP. May just be adding access groups.

Mason will talk to Wade about taking over as chair.