This doc is to prepare for presentation, Q&A.

# Portal/Portlet

Every business needs a website today, but a static web site is not much better than posting a sign with hopes that someone will see it and follow-up in finding you. With today's technology, even the smallest business can easily obtain a dynamic, business class web site or portal, improving sales and customer satisfaction.

With current technologies, our Web Portal / Content Management System can be implemented in less than half the time it takes to develop a custom web site, and the system can most likely be implemented at a lower cost!

A portal is a Web site or service that offers broad range of resources and services like e-mail, forums, search engines, on-line shopping, news, weather information, stock quotes, etc. Portal is a term generally synonymous with the terms gateway or grand entrance into the Internet for many users.

A Web portal software allows aggregation of several back-end systems, processes, sites etc brought together through a single portal page. Portals also provide additional services such as single sign-on security, customization (i.e. personalization) etc.

I think of a portal as the aggregater of a number of disparate applicationsin a highly personalised manner.

Many of the technologies listed above seem to be available to me already without using a portal.

For instance:

-Single Sign On I could do with a valve in Tomcat

-JAAS support is included with most EE app servers

-Themes/Layouts I could do with templating

-User management "could" be done through the tools included with my security store (User Management for Active Directory, LDAP tools for an LDAP repo, etc)

-Content Management I could get with Jackrabbit or some other higher end framework

Basically, it seems that I'm hearing that the value of portal tech is that it combines a lot of these technologies into one place that you might have to cobble together yourself, or write glue for. Also, the ability to personalize the functions that a user has access to seems to be important.

I think the main advantage of a portal is the standard itself. With a portlet, I get all of that, plus it will run in any JSR 168 compliant portal.

For example, I believe the iGoogle page uses the liferay portal, and have tons of third party portlets to choose from.

Portlets are Web-based components managed by portlet containers that supply dynamic content. Portals employ portlets as pluggable user-interface components—a presentation layer—for information systems. The Java Portlet Specification achieves interoperability among portlets and portals by defining the APIs for portlets and by standardizing the rules for preferences, user data, portlet requests and responses, deployment, packaging, and security. Java Portlet Specification 1.0, Java Specification Request (JSR) 168, was released in October 2003.

In February 2006, the JSR 286 Expert Group was formed to start work on Java Portlet Specification 2.0. When that is finalized, backward compatibility will be in place: JSR 168 portlets will be able to run seamlessly in JSR 286 portlet containers. No recompilation will be necessary.

# Remaining Issues

## 1. Review Cost

## 2. End of project, --> end date of assignment ?