

Mytec – Wintec Student Information Portal

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Abstract

In February 2008, Wintec introduced a student information portal. This poster provides a description of the portal and the communication mechanisms this portal provides for students. It also charts the results of a survey of the NACCQ community to determine the number of institutes providing portal access for students and/or staff.

Introduction

This poster will illustrate the features of the portal environment accessible to the Wintec students. The authors will include the results of a recent survey of the NACCQ community to determine how many institutions are providing portal access and will outline the development process used by the Wintec ITS team.

Features

The portal, which was developed during 2007 after extensive requirements analysis, ties together information areas key to student needs. Phase 1 of the portal links together the information areas provided to students by the institute. Phase 2 and 3 will provide a similar portal for staff and the general public.

Web portals generally create a single entrance point into a collection of information provided to an organisations approved clients. Mytec grants secure internet access to student timetables, results and a dedicated email service. The portal allows direct access to Moodle online courses for all modules that the student is enrolled in.

Other features include the ability to access files stored on the student's personal drive at Wintec and to import timetable details into a personalised calendar. Students are also able to access a shared bulletin board. The look and feel of the students Mytec homepage is customised by students to their own requirements.

MOSS 2007

Mytec has been developed using Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007 (MOSS 2007), a complex infrastructure released in February 2007. The development of Mytec required close collaboration between the Wintec ITS project team and Microsoft to ensure that the foundations for phase 1 were sound and would allow for the implementation of phases 2 and 3, planned for the long term.

As a result of MOSS 2007 being so new Wintec subscribed to the Microsoft Premier Support Services (PSS) to enable direct phone contact for resolving hard problems.



Figure 1 Mytec Student Portal Web Interface

Conclusion

The student portal initiative allows Wintec to provide its students with a leading edge communications infrastructure. The preliminary research conducted by the authors seemed to indicate this type of facility is not widely used by tertiary educational institutes either in New Zealand or overseas. The provision of the Wintec Mytec Student Portal, which went live on February 18th 2008, represents a successful conclusion to phase 1 of a planned 3 phase project. This success can be attributed to a number of factors associated with the processes employed by the project team including:

- A very thorough requirements analysis conducted with the clients
- A strong collaborative relationship with Microsoft including their contribution to the higher level design specifications
- A lengthy period of user testing followed by a pilot of the system, which included client training in the use of Mytec

Phase 2 will develop portal access for Wintec staff and phase 3 will provide for access to the public web areas.

References

Waikato University; MyWeb Staff & Student Portal (2008). Retrieved May 01, 2008, from <https://www.mngt.waikato.ac.nz/myweb/>