



RU connected

INTEGRATION OF A LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND A SOCIAL NETWORKING PLATFORM

Principal Investigator: Chikumbutso Gremu

Supervisor: Mici Halse

Date: 24th July, 2012



mahara Open Source ePortfolios
[mah-hah-rah;verb]: to think, thinking, thought

Learning

Student

Teacher

Course

E-Portfolio

Journal/Blog

Podcasting

Friendship
Request

Social
Networking

Resume

Plans

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- Introduction
- Why Integrating LMS and SNS
- Initial Project Design
- Problems Faced
- Current Project Design
- Project status
- Next Steps
- Questions

INTRODUCTION

■ Research Objectives

- Investigate a variety of virtual learning functions offered by Mahara
- Integrate LMS (Moodle) and SNS (Mahara)
- Apply the integration to RUconnected

WHY INTEGRATING LMS AND SNS

LMS

- Support formal learning
- Focus on institution and course contents
- Support creation and distribution of content by instructors

SNS

- Support informal learning
- Learner-focused - user interaction and their active participation in the learning process
- Enable students to contribute in the creation of content

INITIAL PROJECT DESIGN

■ Initial Plans

- Investigate the previous work which integrated version 1.8 of Moodle and Version 0.8 of Elgg using Elgg integration block
- Update Elgg integration block to work with latest version of Elgg and Moodle version 1.9+
- Implement the integration of Elgg and Ruconnected

PROBLEMS FACED

- Instructions to integrate Moodle and Elgg using Elgg integration block not accessible online
- Forums for Moodle/Elgg integration no longer active
- No traceable work being done on Moodle and Elgg integration
- Changes made to Elgg from version 1.0 did not take into consideration integration with Moodle making integration difficult

CURRENT PROJECT DESIGN

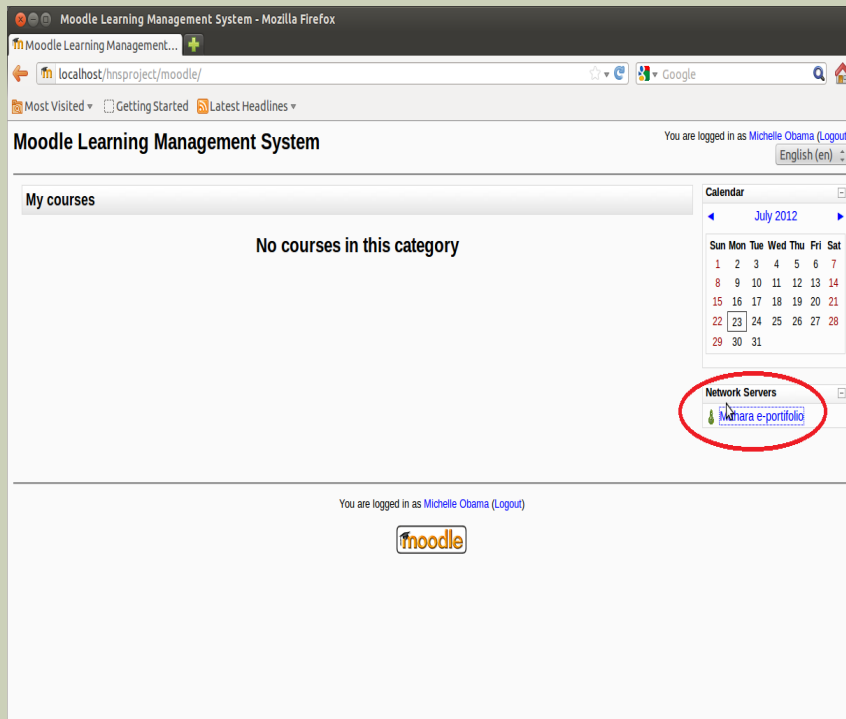
- Integrate Moodle Version 1.9+ and Mahara version 1.5
- Implement the Integration of Mahara and RUconnected

ADVANTAGES OF USING MAHARA

- Mahara and Moodle have similar plugin systems and alot of underlying similarities in libraries;
- Mahara was designed from the beginning to interface cleanly with Moodle;
- Mahara has a tighter integration with Moodle through a single sign-on; and
- Features of Mahara overlap with features of Elgg. The developers of Mahara replicated the features of Elgg in Mahara system.

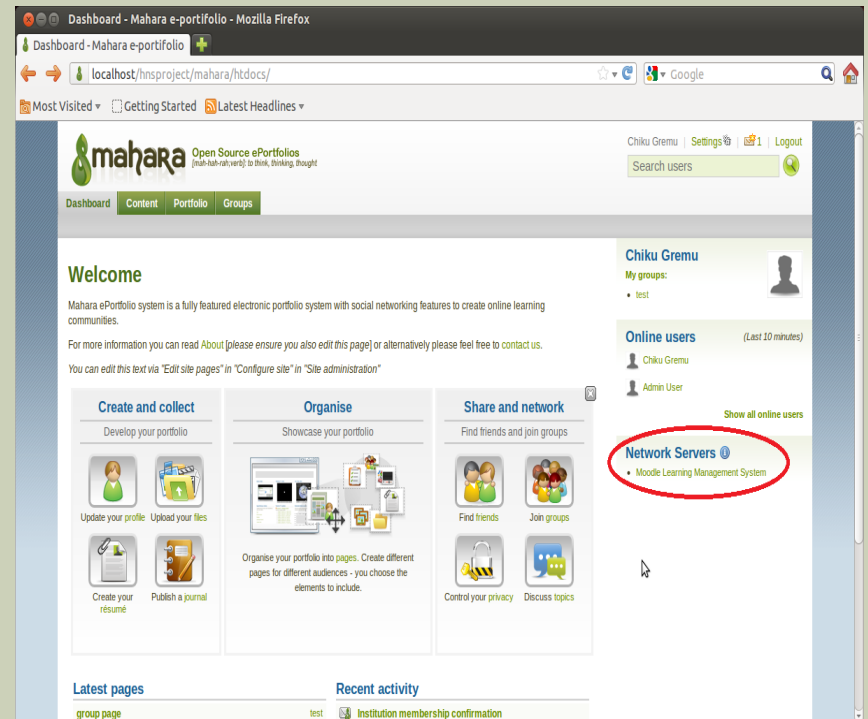
PROJECT STATUS

Implemented the integration of Moodle and Mahara in a test environment



The screenshot shows the Moodle Learning Management System interface in a Mozilla Firefox browser. The address bar displays 'localhost/hnsproject/moodle/'. The page title is 'Moodle Learning Management System'. The user is logged in as 'Michelle Obama'. The main content area shows 'My courses' with the message 'No courses in this category'. A calendar for July 2012 is visible on the right. At the bottom, there is a 'Network Servers' section with a link to 'Mahara e-portfolio' circled in red.

Investigated the features for Mahara developed to support learning



The screenshot shows the Mahara e-portfolio dashboard in a Mozilla Firefox browser. The address bar displays 'localhost/hnsproject/mahara/htdocs/'. The page title is 'Dashboard - Mahara e-portfolio'. The user is logged in as 'Chiku Gremu'. The dashboard features a 'Welcome' message and several sections: 'Create and collect', 'Organise', and 'Share and network'. A 'Network Servers' section at the bottom right is circled in red, showing a link to 'Moodle Learning Management System'.

NEXT STEPS

- Implement the integration of Moodle (Ruconnected) and Mahara in a live environment
- Data collection following the live implementation

QUESTIONS

