



Evaluation of Virtual Organization Support Tools

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AAA/SWITCH Info Day

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Project

- Survey of similar projects and initiatives
- Survey about needs and currently used tools
- Evaluation
 - ▣ Definition of criteria
 - ▣ First evaluation and selection
 - ▣ In-depth evaluation of selected tools

Outcomes

- Meaning of “VO support/collaboration tools”
- Similar projects and initiatives
- Users needs
- Evaluation of tools (partial)

Meaning of “VO support/collaboration tools”

- Different persons ↔ different meanings depending on goals and contexts
 - administration: focus on shared calendars
 - professor: focus on collaboration in teaching
 - researcher: focus on collaborative editing
 - programmer: collaborative software development
 - ...

Similar projects and initiatives

- Almost all universities make available at least one tool to their users
- Some universities offer a comprehensive set of tools to their users (EPFL KIS: Knowledge and Information Services)
- groups and individuals looking for solutions
 - ▣ ZHdK, UNIGE, UNIBE/ETHZ/UZH/UNIFR

Users needs

- Survey at SUPSI about collaboration with external partners:
 1. document sharing
 2. on-line meetings
 3. distributed project management
 4. collaborative editing
 5. knowledge sharing
 6. distributed software development

Evaluation of tools (partial)

- Number (hundreds)
- Business model and cost
 - ▣ free, open-source, commercial
 - ▣ hosted (software-as-a-service), local
- Focus
 - ▣ on-line meetings, project management, ...
- Quality
 - ▣ poor ↔ very good

Example: Cisco WebEx WebOffice

The screenshot shows the Cisco WebEx WebOffice interface within a Mozilla Firefox browser window. The browser's address bar displays the URL `http://testusi.webexone.com/default.asp?link=`. The user is logged in as 'mario gay' and the date is Tuesday, January 13, 2009. The interface features a left-hand navigation menu with categories like Home, Shortcuts, My Favorites, Tools, Administration, Help, Calendar, WebEx Meetings, Contacts, Databases, Discussions, Documents, Members, Polls, and Tasks. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'Announcements' with three items (one cancelled, one milestone reached, one about snowing in Lugano); 'Getting Started' with tips and a trial notice; 'Calendar' showing a 'Brainstorming session' on Friday, January 16 at 10:30 AM; 'Tasks' with two items: 'Complete VO support tools report' due Jan 15 and 'Prepare budget 2012'; and 'Links' with public and my links sections. A 'What's New?' section is visible at the bottom.

Example: Cisco WebEx WebOffice

The screenshot shows the Cisco WebEx WebOffice interface. The browser window title is 'usi - Mozilla Firefox'. The address bar contains 'http://testusi.webexone.com/default.asp?link='. The page header includes 'usi', 'mario gay (Home | Logout)', a search bar with 'Google' and a 'Go' button, and the date 'Tuesday, January 13, 2009'. The main content area is titled 'WebEx Meetings | Web Folders' and features a navigation sidebar on the left with options like Home, Shortcuts, My Favorites, Tools, Administration, Help, Calendar, WebEx Meetings, Contacts, Databases, Discussions, Documents, Members, Polls, and Tasks. The main area displays 'All Folders' with tabs for 'All Folders', 'Group Documents', and 'Personal Documents'. A table lists folders with columns for Folder, Edit, Move, Delete, Managers, and Permissions.

Folder	Edit	Move	Delete	Managers	Permissions
Group Documents	[Icon]	[Icon]	[Icon]	[Icon]	[Icon]
Project AAA	[Icon]	[Icon]	[X]	[Icon]	[Icon]
Project BBB	[Icon]	[Icon]	[X]	[Icon]	[Icon]
Personal Documents	[Icon]	[Icon]	[Icon]	[Icon]	[Icon]

Questions

