ASET: Effectively Using IT to Manage Student Placements and Work-Based Learning OPUS, and Questions Presented

Dr Colin Turner Head of School, School of Engineering Principal Developer of OPUS

ASET / School of Engineering, University of Ulster

11th May 2007, 23rd November 2007

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Your Concerns

What are the main concerns you have ...

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- How to integrate OPUS into current systems?
 Free, Open Source, Modular nature will make this easy.

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Other Questions posed...

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• What is open source?

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• Can data be imported from Pinesoft?

Good question, probably, and usually easily from Excel, Access with some technical know how.

• How technical do you need to be to run/install OPUS? Not at all to use and run. To install, basic admin knowledge, and we're working on that.

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Go to

http://foss.ulster.ac.uk/projects/opus/ and subscribe to the opus-announce mailing list and more, updates will be announced and cryptographically signed. Developers can run the "trunk" version, but production servers should use a stable version. Debian (GNU/Linux) will be automatically supported.

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 What employer feedback have you had? It has been good. See the leaflet in your pack for some details, more are available on request.

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What flexibility is built in?

The system is designed to support a variety of practice and this is improving, it is not designed to straight-jacket you.

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• How is security handled?



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At several levels. Login accounts are categorised into user types, security policies allow fine control over what users can access, and as a point of principal, staff can only interact with students' data on a need basis. Logging of access is undertaken for all sorts of activity including possible intrusions. Cryptographic HTTP and database access is possible.

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• How do you get on-going support?

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• How do you get on-going support?

At the development website, there are publically available bug trackers, support mechanisms, and mailing lists to foster a self-help community. You could also pay for consultancy if necessary.

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• What can you adapt in an open source system?

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- What can you adapt in an open source system? As it is free software, whatever you like. However, under the GPL (GNU Public License) so you cannot remove the liberties you were granted.
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The basic configuration (passwords etc.), the text in some key areas (institution name), and perhaps authentication mechanisms, and the format of your CSV files.

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The basic configuration (passwords etc.), the text in some key areas (institution name), and perhaps authentication mechanisms, and the format of your CSV files. This is all designed to be easy, and survive upgrades where possible.

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Why OPUS 4 is still in completion

• My day job ...

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- Ensuring the new version both address internal and external priorities.

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- and many more improvements that pervade the system.

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- A command line tool, that integrates timeline generation and more,
- Much more consistent, and documented database,

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What's new in OPUS 4?

What's new in OPUS 4 - for the sys admin

- OPUS now uses the PDO framework, safer and more portable,
- Much more consistent source code,
- Very easy to change almost every text prompt on the system,
- A command line tool, that integrates timeline generation and more,
- Much more consistent, and documented database,
- Innovative plug-in approach to authentication of users.

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Other Practice Questions...

Questions for practitioners like Ron, more than me.

Other Practice Questions...

Dr Colin Turner ASET: Effectively Using IT to Manage Student Placements and W

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Other Practice Questions...

• How easy is it to get placement providers on board?

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Other Practice Questions...

Questions for practitioners like Ron, more than me.

Other Practice Questions...

- How easy is it to get placement providers on board?
- What about Small, Medium sized businesses?

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Other Practice Questions...

Questions for practitioners like Ron, more than me.

Other Practice Questions...

- How easy is it to get placement providers on board?
- What about Small, Medium sized businesses?
- What about practice based placement (e.g. nursing)

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