

Introduction to Web Collaboration Technologies

By Sarah Buchanan

"For Conference Purposes Only"

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What Are Web Collaboration Technologies?

Collaborative Software

- E-mail
- Text Chat
 - Blogs
 - Wiki
- Social networks
 - Facebook
 - Friendster



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Types of Collaboration Techniques

- *Knowledge management tools*
- *Knowledge creation tools*
- *Information sharing tools*
- *Collaborative project management tools*

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How Did all this come about?

- Internet
- Message Boards/Chat Rooms
- IRC and AOL Instant Messenger
- Personal Web pages
- Google
- Online Journals and Blogs
- Social Networking
- Youtube
- Wikipedia
- Web 2.0
- Collaborative Spaces



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Social Networking & Web 2.0

- Myspace
- Youtube
- Flickr
- Facebook
- Wikipedia
- Blogs
- Mashups



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Google

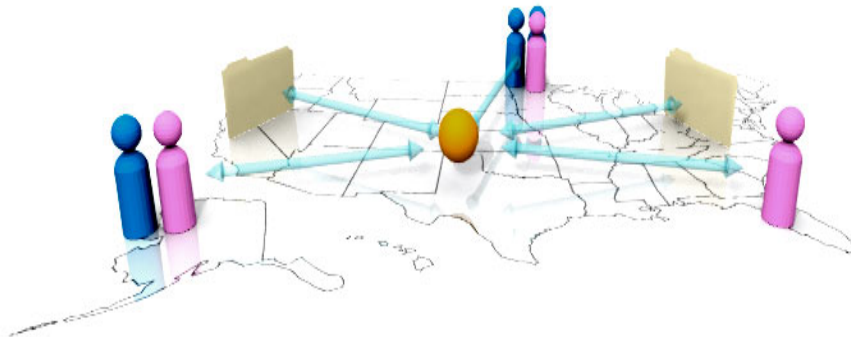
- Intelligent Search Engine
- Google Maps/Google Earth
- Images
- G-mail
 - G-mail Calendar
 - G-mail Chat
- Google Documents
- iGoogle



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Collaborate with your peers through online meetings and file sharing capabilities



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Benefits?

- Long-distance collaboration
- Instant Feedback= Instant Success
- Exchange of ideas
- Central location
- One stop shop
- Controlled access
- Tagging



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Challenges?

- So many choices
- Stove Pipe organization
- Each community has different needs
- Quality Control
- Risks
 - No one will contribute
 - Digital Divide
 - Inappropriate content



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What is EPA doing?

- Flow of the River
- Puget Sound Wiki
- Multimedia Center
- Portal
 - ESC
- Lotus Notes

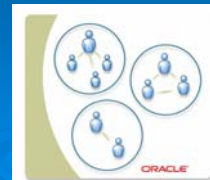
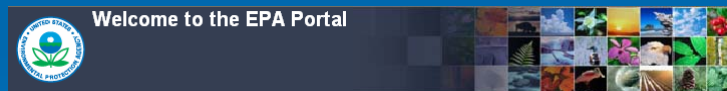


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Collaborative Software

Within EPA



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But what will work for you?



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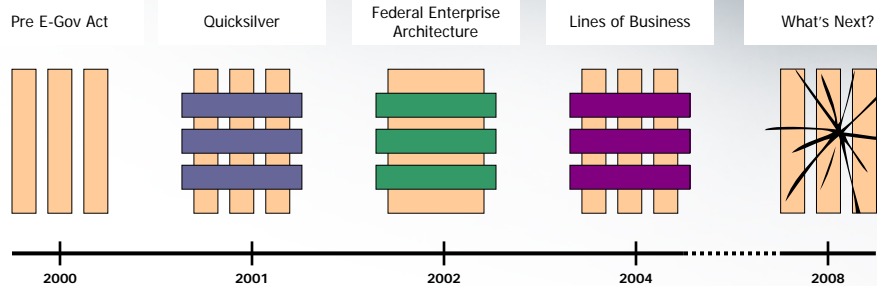
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Quality Collaboration



Kevin J. Kirby
 EPA Enterprise Data Architect
 (202) 566-1656

Evolution of E-Government



• Prior to the E-Government Act, agencies worked in silos

- In 2001, 25 Quicksilver initiatives were identified
- E-Government Act of 2002 endorses and requires Agencies to support cross-agency initiatives
- Ultimately, creates "horizontal silos"

- In 2002, development of the Federal Enterprise Architecture commences
- Intended to simplify processes and unify work across agencies
- Reference models bring back an intra-agency focus

- In 2004, 5 Lines of Business task forces are formed
- Since expanded, the LOBs bring back a cross-agency approach but remain focused on driving down transaction costs in management and support functions

The challenge going forward will be to:

- Foster adoption of Web 2.0 functionality in government
- Move beyond a horizontal approach to a networked approach
- Focus on mission-critical activities
- Drive towards simplicity

Creating an Opportunity for Public Sector Leaders



Wikinomics

- Book by Don Tapscott and Anthony D. Williams explores how organizations use mass collaboration (also called peer production) and open-source technology such as wikis to be successful
- According to the authors, wikinomics is based on four ideas: Openness, Peering, Sharing, and Acting Globally
- Employees drive performance by collaborating with peers across organizational boundaries, creating a “wiki workplace”

Medici Effect

- Frans Johansson describes how we can find intersections in our own lives and turn the ideas we find there into pathbreaking innovations
- Three driving forces—the movement of people, the convergence of scientific disciplines, and the leap in computational power—are increasing the number and types of intersections we can access
- The theory explores the concept of cross-field and cross-cultural combinations and to offer clear guidance on how to make such an approach work effectively



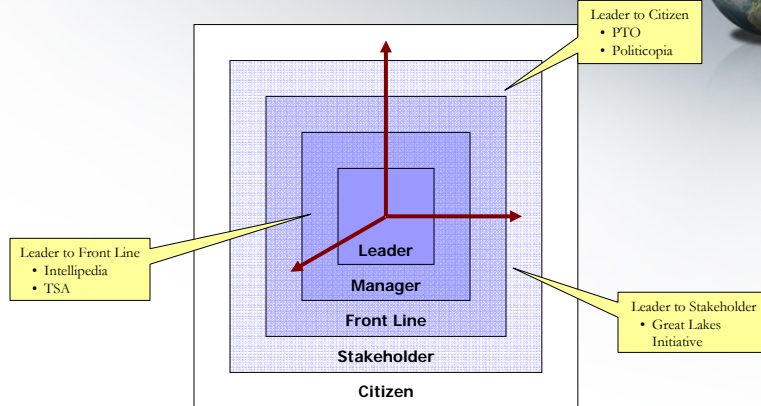
Transparency

- Blacked Out: Government Secrecy in the Information Age by Alasdair Roberts shows that despite advances made with the 1966 Freedom of Information Act, there are those who continue to promote government secrecy
- Privatization of public services, the rise of powerful international organizations, and the growth of tight knit networks of security agencies are complicating campaigns for openness
- New developments in IT enable greater openness and remove barriers to transparency

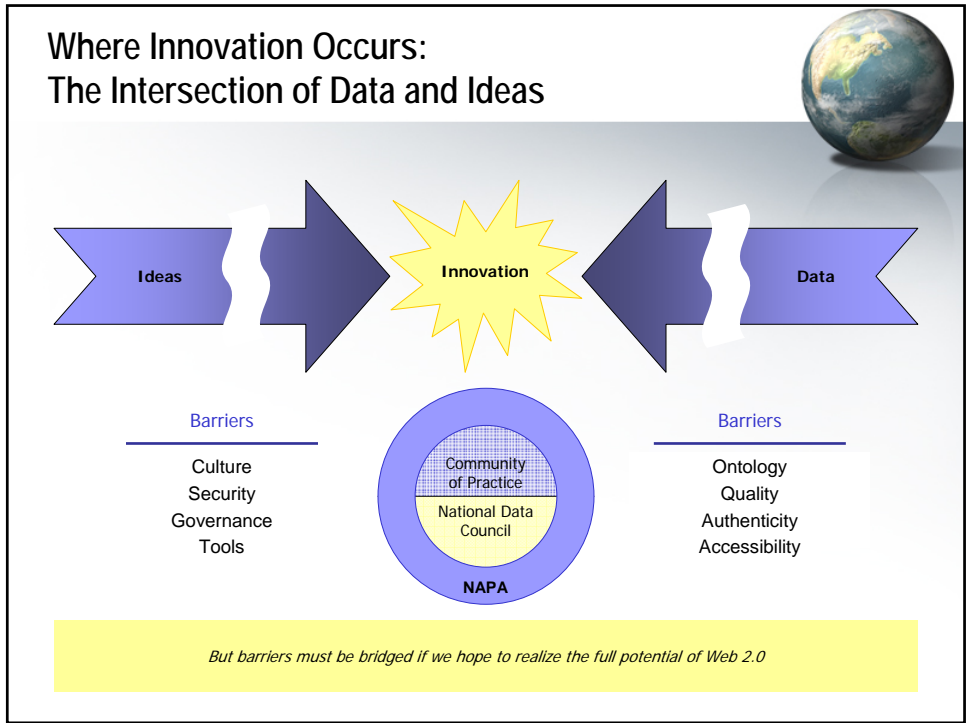
Swarm Intelligence

- Swarm Intelligence is a concept of artificial intelligence based on the study of collective behavior in decentralized, self-organized systems
- The inherent intelligence of swarms, when examined, reveals that the collective movements of an aggregate often derive from independent decision making on part of a single individual
- Such knowledge encourages individual decision making as an effective tool in bringing about widespread social change

Focus on the Management Approach, NOT the Technology Solution



Innovative leaders are using collaborative approaches and tools to solve government's toughest challenges



Collaboration Site: WISER Geospatial Data Standards

WISER Website for Ideas and Solutions on Environmental Information and Regulatory Innovations

Today is: 03/14/08

FEATURES 2001

- Conferences
- Calendar
- Library
- Links
- Search
- Assistance Center

WISER MEMBER LOGIN

If you are already a member Login Here.

USER ID:

PASSWORD:

[Forgot Your Password?](#)

BECOME A MEMBER

If you are interested in joining WISER [Click Here!](#)

Discover WISER...

WISER is a secure, electronic workplace developed for use by employees of State environmental agencies and the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Its purpose is to share ideas and information about information management and other topics of mutual interest. This site is designed to give you a better understanding of WISER and guides you through each of the WISER features, step by step. Click the links on the left to discover WISER and its many uses.

WISER is about **CONNECTING People**

WISER is about connecting people and facilitating the exchange of information across environmental agencies. As a registered WISER member, you may:

- share a project
- join a conference
- post an information request
- review documents and offer feedback
- post upcoming events in the Calendar
- locate contact information for your colleagues around the country

- WISER in a nutshell:
- Enviro. Data Standards
 - State/Fed partnerships
 - Maintained by R5




Home Help

Conferences All

- > ROOMS: [2004/2005 Small States Technical Assistance Initia](#) Last Updated: 11/02/05
- > ROOMS: [2004.05 Geospatial DS Effort](#) Last Updated: 02/03/05
- > ROOMS: [ADEQ Wastewater On-line](#) Last Updated: 08/30/04
- > ROOMS: [Challenge Grant Idea Forum FY2005](#) Last Updated: 06/06/06
- > ROOMS: [CROMERR](#) Last Updated: 11/10/04
- > ROOMS: [EDSC 2004 Revisions](#) Last Updated: 12/01/04
- > ROOMS: [ENC Oversight Review](#) Last Updated: 07/06/06
- > ROOMS: [Enterprise GIS \(NYS DEC\)](#) Last Updated: 08/01/05
- > ROOMS: [Environmental Data Standards Council Activities](#) Last Updated: 07/21/05
- > ROOMS: [Environmental IT Security Challenges](#) Last Updated: 03/02/04
- > ROOMS: [ERP Consortium: Automation](#) Last Updated: 01/17/07
- > ROOMS: [ERP Consortium: Expanding EPA Support](#) Last Updated: 01/09/07
- > ROOMS: [ERP Consortium: Information Sharing and Building I](#) Last Updated: 01/17/07
- > ROOMS: [ERP Consortium: Reporting Results](#) Last Updated: 01/09/07
- > ROOMS: [ESAR](#) Last Updated: 07/21/05
- > ROOMS: [FY 2007 - Using PPG to Deal with Air/ UST Funding](#) Last Updated: 04/04/07
- > ROOMS: [Initial Assistance Visits \(Missouri\)](#) Last Updated: 11/18/05
- > ROOMS: [International Geospatial Stds \(INCIT L1\)](#) Last Updated: 07/19/04
- > ROOMS: [Mercury Vehicle Switches](#) Last Updated: 08/02/06
- > ROOMS: [Open Discussions Forum](#) Last Updated: 09/23/05
- > ROOMS: [WISER Site Coordinators](#) Last Updated: 09/03/05

Collaboration Site: WISER Geospatial Data Standards



Other Options Session For: Kevin Kirby Date: 03/14/2008

[HOME](#) | [Help](#) | [Conferences](#) | [Library](#) | [Members](#) | [Search](#) | [Calendar](#) | [Links](#) | [My WISER](#)

ROOM: [International Geospatial Stds \(INCIT L1\)](#) Last Updated: 07/19/04

Room Subjects:	Last Updated:	User / Affiliation:
ISO 6703: Maintenance Update	07/19/04	Kevin Kirby / EPA-WDC
Welcome INCITS Members	04/02/03	Kevin Kirby / EPA-WDC
US TAG Activities	04/02/03	Kevin Kirby / EPA-WDC
INCITS L1 Members List	04/01/03	Kevin Kirby / EPA-WDC
Meeting Minutes	04/01/03	Kevin Kirby / EPA-WDC
INCITS L1 Annual Reports	04/01/03	Kevin Kirby / EPA-WDC

Collaboration Site: LOTUS Quick Place EPA Geospatial Information Systems Work Group



Address: https://epagis.rtp.epa.gov/QuickPlace/epagisworkgroup/Main.nsf/fh_Toc?8e6de54793ad70da85256de800636f570OpenDocument

my places | home

kevin kirby | sign out

new... edit check out

Home

- About the GIS Work Group
- Meetings:
- Calendar
- GIS Workgroup Minutes
- Steering Committee:
- Training:
- Mason Hewitt Award:
- FGDC Spatial Standards
- Geospatial Policies and Standards:
- GIS Day
- ER Subgroup:
- Field Data Collection Subgroup:
- ESRI User Conferences
- ESRI Tech Issues
- ESRI EIA Support Services
- WATERS

This is the EPA GIS Work Group web site. Links to content on the old Intranet site will open in a new window - these pages are on the EPA Intranet and will be unavailable to non-EPA site members. If you are a non-EPA visitor that would like to request an account, please fill out the online account request form and identify *Hanry Siron* as your EPA sponsor. Other problems? Visit the [Quickplace Tips and Tricks](#) section.

Recently Added/Of Note

Presentations from September 18-20, 2007
Meeting hosted by **Region 9 and ORD**

Mason Hewitt Award Winner for 2007 - IHHD Plus

- ER Symbology, Map Templates and Sample Data developed by Region 4
 - Download Zip File (~100mb)
- Results of Survey of EPA GPS Usage -Excel File
- New England GIS Conference Presentation on EPA 2006 Hurricane Response (Tom Oiffen)
- The current EPA GIS Workgroup Charter was adopted on January 5, 2005.
- Regional Geospatial Node Survey Results:
 - Results Summary (PDF)
 - Full Results Spreadsheet (XLS)
- OEI Geospatial Blueprint
- OEI Geospatial Baseline Document

Important note for Extranet (non-EPA) Users: Extranet account passwords must be reset every 90 days. If you are an existing Extranet user whose password has expired, please send an e-mail to kevin.kirby@epa.gov.

Upcoming Geospatial Events

GIS Work Group Meetings and Teleconferences

- The Spring 2008 EPA GIS Workgroup Meeting will be held in May 13-16 in New York, NY at the EPA Region 2's offices. A block of rooms has been reserved at the **Marriott Brooklyn Bridge** under the group: "EPA GIS Workgroup" at \$244/night. Reservations will be accepted through **April 14th** (Phone: 1-888-436-3759 (toll free) Local: 718-246-7000)
 - Meeting Logistics
- The Fall 2007 EPA GIS Workgroup Meeting was held September 18-21 in Las Vegas, NV, at the US EPA Las Vegas Lab
 - Presentations, minutes and action items

Other Events of Interest

- EPA Emergency Response HIFLD Meeting - Salt Lake City, UT (January 29 - 30, 2008) Once at site enter conference code *HIF51145*.
- ESRI Federal Users Meeting in Washington, DC on February 20-22, 2008
- "Putting NHDPlus to Work" Workshop - Denver, CO (February 26 - 28, 2008)

Collaboration Site: EPA Metadata COI



mindtouch

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Edit page New page Print page More Table of contents

This page was last modified 7 hours ago by Admin

Web 2.0 Pilot Metadata Wiki

This is a pilot Web 2.0 Wiki for EPA Metadata: Helping people use EPA data to collaborate and built applications.

Our initial objective is to see if this Web 2.0 Wiki can be useful in bringing about collaboration across the Metadata Management Functions Matrix, Teams-Tasks Matrix, and Data Architecture Documents. A longer range goal would be to see if this Web 2.0 Wiki could be used as an Enterprise Metadata Management and Application Development Tool (e.g. data and metadata mashups).

Most Recent Briefing: Wednesday, March 12, 2008, EPA CIO and Deputy CIO (see Blog: Restricted Access)

Data Architect: Kevin Kirby, kirby.kevin@epa.gov

Wikimaster: Brand Niemann, niemann.brand@epa.gov

Vision and Implementation:

Data Architecture	Component	Specific Artifact	Example
DRM 2.0 (1)	Description	Metadata (4)	Spreadsheet @
	Context	Taxonomy/Ontology (5)	Web 2.5 Wiki @
	Sharing	Data (4)	Spreadsheet @
DRM 3.0 (2)	Semantics (3)	RDF/SPARQL (6)	Middleware @
	SOA	Services (7)	Web 2.5 Wiki @ (8)

Footnotes:

Done Internet

Collaboration Site: CORE.gov Data Architecture



Address: <https://collab.core.gov/CommunityBrowser.aspx?id=10125&lang=en-US>

Google | My Options | Kevin Kirby | Sign Out | Search

CORE.gov Working together to build governmentwide solutions
Component Organization and Registration Environment

You are here: [AIC Data Architecture](#)

Community Explorer

- AIC Data Architecture Subcommittee (DAS)

AIC Data Architecture Subcommittee (DAS)
Community

User Reviews

Welcome | About

Welcome to the AIC Data Architecture Subcommittee (DAS) collaboration community.

See "DAS - General" and "Meeting Minutes" folders for main work products. See individual Work Group ("WG") folders for specific WG artifacts.

To see most artifacts other than from Work Groups, select the "Knowledge" tab of the "DAS - General" folder. Try [this link](#):

For the most recent contributions, see "Latest Knowledge" below. On this community home page, the 5 most recent "contributions" (artifacts) appear below, regardless of which Work Group produced them. (The name next to an artifact is simply the person who posted it, who will often not be the actual author.)

DAS Community Administrator: Tina Horan (Thoran@bizant.com)

Participate

Setting up a Collaboration Site *Key considerations*



OSWER Collaboration Tool Experiences

Jean Balent
OSWER, OSRTI, TIFSD
Technology Information & Integration Branch
balent.jean@epa.gov
703.603.9924



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1



What has OSWER used?

- Portal Web Conference
- Portal Discussion Board
- Portal File or Content Services
- Portal Collaboration Spaces
 - Environmental Science Connector
 - Collaborative Workspaces
- Portal Oracle Messenger (IM Client)
- QuickPlace
- Sametime
- Sametime Connect (IM Client)
- WebEx
- GoToMeeting
- NetMeeting
- Adobe Connect
- The Teleconference Center Online Meeting Services
- And much much more

Tools are managed by different groups with varying levels of support, outreach, and training



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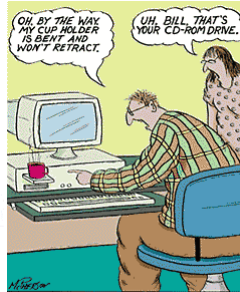
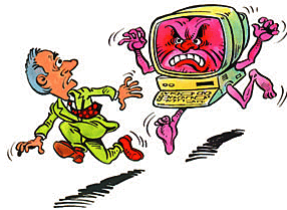
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2



Approach to cover this material

- Users/Customers have HUGE range in “IT savyiness”



I've tried include information for all groups... so we may skip around depending on the audience

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3



One final warning...

- Everything that I will cover today is a **tool**, not a salvation
- These tools can be used to **efficiently communicate** with team members and **centrally manage information for a project**
- Their success depends on **your** implementation, enforcement, and support!

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Here are few tools available to you - across EPA - for online meetings

- Oracle Web Conference
 - <http://portal.epa.gov/webconference>
- Sametime
 - <https://epastx.rtp.epa.gov/epacenter.nsf>
- WebEx through Meeting Visuals (WCF)
 - www.meetingvisuals.com
- The Teleconferencing Center (WCF)
 - <http://www.teleconferencingcenter.com/>

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Why would you use this?

- Limited travel funds
- Reduced budgets for training
- Schedule conflicts make travel difficult
- Flexiplace, Alternative Work Schedule have staff spread out physically
- Pandemic Situations
- Increased need to outreach to public & partners

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Oracle Web Conference

- Share live documents so that participants can watch you move through slides or other files as if they were in the room with you
- Share other applications on your computer
- Give control of your computer to other participants
- Let other participants share materials from their computers with others
- Poll the audience
- Chat with host, public, or groups of participants
- Record entire event for future download or replay
- Send automatic emails with links to preloaded documents
- And more....

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Oracle Web Conference

Pros



- No cost to use
- Full options of screen sharing, document upload, whiteboard, polling, etc
- Audio integrated into web interface → could help eliminate other costs
- Public site, no username/password required aside from conference key
- Free recording
- Stable and very close to real-time display

Cons



- Additional installation or software required to use
- Works only with Windows and IE
- Some limited issues with connection and stability
- Recorded events are downloaded as .exe
- Whiteboard has no text option
- Screen resolution can cause "fit" problems
- Audio can only be streamed with PC microphone

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OSWER Experiences with Oracle Web Conferences

- CPRM Training
- Superfund Remedy Review Board →
- ORD/OSWER Seminar Series
- Triad Conference Planning
- R3 Technical Support Meeting
- QuickPlace “tech support”
- Flexiplace →



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Superfund Remedy Review Board Meeting

- Need:
 - bring together 20 regional and HQ experts to review info about a proposed NPL site and
 - **create a response document** with comments from all participants
- Experience:
 - Over 6 hour event held online using the web conference
 - RPM and consultants went through PowerPoint slides and reviewed maps
 - **Alternated control** to highlight various site elements to stimulate and support dialogs
 - **Saved ~20K in travel expenses and 40 hrs of travel comp time**
 - **Some preferred in-person meeting** to commit time
 - Produced a **first draft response document completely online**
 - Learned that with shared control, you cannot “cut and paste” into shared document

Participant Name	Role	Status	Joined	Left
John Smith	Regional Administrator	Present	05/16/2008 10:00:00 AM	
Jane Doe	Regional Administrator	Present	05/16/2008 10:00:00 AM	
Bob Johnson	Regional Administrator	Present	05/16/2008 10:00:00 AM	
...



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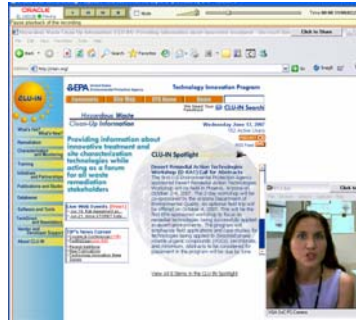
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Flexiplace

- **Need**
 - Some staff provide routine help or assistance that can best be served in person
 - These staff also work AWS or flexiplace schedules to help meet Agency goals promoting these programs
- **Experience**
 - A web conference is scheduled in advance for the date of flexiplace
 - **URL and instructions provided in out of office email settings** along with **Lotus Notes calendar entries** to let others know how to reach the staff member
 - Flexiplace web conference is also left open to all members and placed on public calendar for additional easy access
 - Web conference makes the **staff member as accessible** as if they were in the office
 - Web conference also **keeps record of time worked** as well as partners that joined them online



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Tips for Successful Web Conferences

- **Proper planning and preparation is the key to a successful event, whether online or in person.**
- **Offer people multiple ways to participate (phone, stream audio online, etc)**
- **Provide back-up option to access files for “worst case scenario”**
- **Demo software with instructors ahead of time to test features**
- **Offer tests to participants to troubleshoot problems in advance**
- **Start event ~30 mins prior to scheduled delivery time to allow people the time to sign in and get situated**

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Tips for Successful Web Conferences

- Questions to consider for a web conference:
 - Who will participate (EPA or non-EPA)?
 - What is the IT knowledge-level of your participants?
 - You may need to prepare for some Computer 101 work
 - Where will your speakers be located?
 - Will you use or cover materials on different computers?
 - Will you use a phone line or computer microphone?
 - Will people be in the same room with you during the event?
 - Will you need to make files available before or after the event?
 - Will you record the event?

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Here are few tools available to you - across EPA - team websites

- QuickPlace (Lotus Notes username/password)
 - <https://epaqpx.rtp.epa.gov/>
 - <http://epaquickplace1.rtp.epa.gov/>
- Oracle Collaborative Workspaces (LAN username/password)
 - <http://hawkeye.epa.gov/workspaces>
- Environmental Science Connector (LAN username/password)
 - <http://portal.epa.gov/ESC>

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Why would you use this?

- How many times have you been involved with a project and said:
 - I can't find that email, can you resend it?
 - I deleted it...can you resend it?
 - I'm on travel and can't access your email...
 - That file is too large to send by email!
 - What's the file name? I can't find it on your FTP site.
 - Can you forward all the previous emails on that topic? I wasn't involved from the beginning and need to get up to speed.
 - What version are we working with?
 - Who edited this file?
 - We need to meet, tell me when you are free and we can schedule something...

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QuickPlace

- A project team website can be created using the QuickPlace tool to address these issues
- Team website will give users options such as:
 - **Discussion:** gathering place for all resources related to a project
 - **Library:** houses the team's important QuickPlace pages
 - **Calendar:** place for adding and viewing critical dates relevant to the team's project
 - **Tasks:** tracking critical tasks assigned to team members
 - **Index:** listing of all the pages that have been contributed to the QuickPlace
 - **Customize:** set preferences for your QuickPlace
 - **Members:** QuickPlace manager can define who can read and author pages, members can change their passwords
- All of these options can be customized to meet the needs of a particular team
- Team page is created by an EPA tool and managed by its members so there is virtually no expense to the project team

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QuickPlace

Pros

- Free to use
- Complete suite of team resources: calendar, tasks, discussion, library etc
- Customize look, feel, layout
- Create custom forms, work flow, etc
- Create and run autoscripts
- Unique URL (separate site management)
- Managers process external user accounts
- Bookmark URLs

Cons

- Default settings use Active X
- Need RTP to approve request to create a QP
- No central directory of QPs
- Limited to 50 MB per upload
- Some issues with certain file types (PDFs)
- Some stability issues
- Little support for user community
- Look up by User ID
- Sign on to each QP individually

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OSWER Experiences with QuickPlace

- Conference FTP
- Triad Community of Practice
- TTIB Branch Administration
- Regional/Site Technical Support →
- TIFSD Contracts
- Federal Women's Program
- EPA Intern Program



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Regional/Site Technical Support

Region 7 Dana Corp Site - Triad Project Team Website
 jean balent | my places | home/library • jump • next | last
 new page new cleanup folder options

home
 discussion
 library
 calendar
 tasks
 index
 customize
 members

tools
 advanced search
 news: daily | weekly
 roon map
 notify | print | help


Title	Created By	Created On	Updated By	Modified On
Example Plans Ranges	Kira Lynch	03/29/2007	Kira Lynch	03/29/2007
Example Plans Vint Hill	Kira Lynch	03/29/2007	Kira Lynch	03/29/2007
Example Plans EGDY Phase 2	Kira Lynch	03/29/2007	Kira Lynch	03/29/2007
Example Plans M&B	Kira Lynch	03/29/2007	Kira Lynch	03/29/2007
Example Plans Larson	Kira Lynch	03/29/2007	Kira Lynch	03/29/2007
Example Plans EGDY	Kira Lynch	03/29/2007	Kira Lynch	03/29/2007
XRF Course Material	Stephen Dymont	03/29/2007	Stephen Dymont	03/29/2007
Updated Guest Access to OP Site	Jean Balent	03/09/2007	Jean Balent	03/09/2007
Draft Site Characterization Work Plan pt 2	Alan Rittgers	02/23/2007	Alan Rittgers	02/23/2007
Draft Site Characterization Work Plan pt 1	Alan Rittgers	02/23/2007	Alan Rittgers	02/23/2007

XRF Course Material
 These are course slides for our 1 day XRF course. The focus is on understanding issues like sample support, representativeness, heterogeneous matrices, collaborative data, decision units and more. The idea is to get away from the concept of blindly submitting.

Updated Guest Access to OP Site
 Getting Access to an EPA Quickplace Website Team members may review the website as a Guest User with the following login credentials. Note that as a Guest User, you will ONLY be able to read/view...

Draft Site Characterization Work Plan pt 2
 Draft Site Characterization Work Plan, Sections 4.0 through 6.0 and Appendix A.

Draft Site Characterization Work Plan pt 1
 Draft Site Characterization Work Plan, Sections 1.0 through 3.0 and Appendix A.



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Tips for Successful Team Websites

- Think about who will be involved, how long with they be involved
- What do you need to share? What will the group try to do?
- Put documents on site and refuse to email files to stimulate usage
- Promote the discussion board
- Take advantage of auto/quick notification features
- Need someone to act as the “gardener”...
 - Also need a “police man”, teacher, and firefighter!

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General Issues To Consider

- Very little outreach about these tools beyond OEI events
- No central collaboration support
- Limited or no training available
- No independent/unbiased assessment comparing to other tools
- Tools compete with each other
- Tool managers don't know what we are doing with their resources, don't understand the value (time & cost savings), may not be making the best decisions for customers

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Thank you!

Feel free to email me with comments, questions, or if you want help using these tools

Sign up/Join my ESC Project :
EPA Distance Collaboration Services
<http://portal.epa.gov/ESC>

Jean Balent
OSWER, OSRTI, TIFSD
Technology Information & Integration Branch
balent.jean@epa.gov
703.603.9924

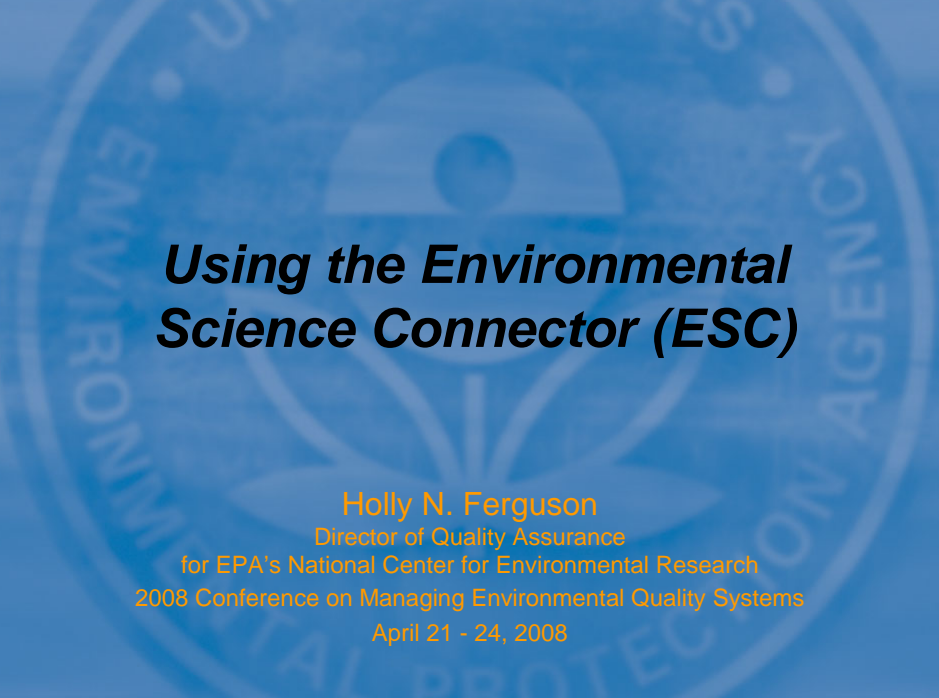
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5/16/2008

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Using the Environmental Science Connector (ESC)

Holly N. Ferguson
Director of Quality Assurance
for EPA's National Center for Environmental Research
2008 Conference on Managing Environmental Quality Systems
April 21 - 24, 2008

Research and Development at EPA



- 1,950 employees
- \$700 million budget
- \$100 million extramural research grant program
- 13 lab or research facilities across the U.S.
- Credible, relevant and timely research results and technical support that inform EPA policy decisions

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Making decisions with sound science requires..

- Relevant, high quality, cutting-edge research in human health, ecology, pollution control and prevention, economics and decision sciences
- Proper characterization of scientific findings
- Appropriate use of science in the decision process

Research and development contribute uniquely to..

- Health and ecological research, as well as research in pollution prevention and new technology
- In-house research and an external grants program
- Problem-driven and core research

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High Priority Research Areas



- Human Health
- Particulate Matter
- Drinking Water
- Clean Water
- Global Change
- Endocrine Disruptors
- Ecological Risk
- Pollution Prevention
- Homeland Security

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The National Center for Environmental Research in EPA's Office of Research & Development

NCER's mission is to support high-quality research by the nation's leading scientists that will improve EPA's scientific basis for decisions on national environmental issues. NCER supports leading edge extramural research in exposure, effects, risk assessment, and risk management through competitions for STAR grants, fellowships, and research contracts under the Small Business Innovative Research Program.



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What is the ESC? Essential Features All in One Place MDJ3



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Advantages and Potential Uses

- Collaborate and share research and project information
 - Conduct real-time, interactive scientific investigation in shared workspaces
 - Upload content using a file cabinet structure
 - Find related projects
- Customize content
 - Users organize their information to support the various ways that scientists work
 - Include QA documentation, review comments, and approvals
 - Include QA assessment reports, and follow up on corrective actions
 - Dynamic workspaces
 - Access tools, resources (e.g. Data, Models, Scientific Sources and Publications)

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Solutions Provided by the ESC

- Easy to create projects
- Can access from anywhere in the world
- Easy for external collaborators to access
- One place to go to share project information
- Don't have to send large files and emails that bounce back
- Can perform investigations in real-time
- Include access for multiple QA Managers for multi-organizational collaborative efforts

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Logging On: <http://portal.epa.gov/ESC>

Environmental Science Connector

Welcome to EPA's Environmental Science Connector

The Environmental Science Connector is a password-protected research and collaboration center that provides the capability to customize, coordinate, and monitor the progress of science projects from your desktop. It is an ideal place for EPA scientists to centrally manage projects, search for and download datasets, models, publications, and other documents; track the history of their work, and share information with other researchers within EPA and with external stakeholders who are collaborating with the Agency.

Key Project Management and Collaboration Features

- A **project resources** space where you can download project-related documents, data sets, and other resources; organize them in using a folder/subfolder system, and share them with your project members.
- A **project message board** where members can post discussion topics and communicate with each other.
- A list of all **project members** along with **small links** for each member.
- Ability to chat with other members using **Oracle Messenger**.
- A **project calendar** where project members can post upcoming conference calls, meetings, and other events.
- **Web conferencing** that allows project members to have real-time meetings in virtual space hosted on the Internet. Project members can view the same information on their computer screens and communicate via telephone conferencing, voice streaming, or Oracle instant messaging.
- Ability to **access resources** from EPA's Web site, including EPA's desktop library.

Additional Information

More detailed information about the Environmental Science Connector is available at [About the Environmental Science Connector](#), the user [Tutorial](#), [FAQ](#), and user [Help](#).

For more information contact Jacques Kapuscinski in the Office of Research and Development at 202-564-

Login

Enter your user name and password to login.

User Name

Password

Login Instructions

EPA Employees:
Your user name is your LAN ID. Your password is your LAN password.

Non-EPA Users (including EPA contractors, Co-op students, and AAA fellows):
Go to <http://portal.epa.gov> and click on Request Access to the EPA Portal. For more information on how to request access go to: [Request Access to the EPA Portal - Environmental Science Connector](#)

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Required Info for External Collaborators

**** USE THIS FORM ONLY IF YOU DO NOT HAVE AN epa.gov EMAIL ADDRESS.****

ALL FIELDS ARE REQUIRED

First Name:

Last Name:

Email Address:
format: email@domainname.com

Street Address:

City:

Country:

State/Province/Region:

Postal Code:

Daytime Phone Number:

EPA Contact Name:

EPA Contact's Email Address:
format: email@domainname.com

EPA Contact's Phone Number:
format: (xxx) xxx-xxxx

Select the Community from the drop down list that is the reason for your business need to obtain Portal access. Once you gain access to the Portal you will have the ability to request access to additional Communities.

Environmental Science Connector

I accept the EPA Portal Privacy & Security Notice. Click here to read [Click](#).

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Your ESC Home Page

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My ESC Home Page

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Project Workbench

Project Description: A space to learn about web conference tools, team-based website packages, instant messaging, and other tools available to EPA employees

Project Members

Project Owner: Jean Balent

Members: Annabel Wassenaar, Art Donner, Barry Nushbaum, Bernice Batts, Brenda Gallard, Bruce Means, Carlyn Perry

Message Board

Web conferencing needs? - 0 responses - Last post by Jean Balent

User Capacity Web Conference Test - 1 response - Last post by Jean Balent

Issues with Sametime - 3 responses - Last post by Jean Balent

Project Calendar

3/6 03:30 PM - User Capacity Web Conference Test

3/17 01:00 PM - Collaboration Workspaces

Project Resources

Name	Info	Size	Date Posted
A Living Guide To Oracle Coll...		5830 KB	02/21/2008
OSWER Collaboration Tools		42527 KB	02/20/2008

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Discussion Forum / Message Board

Forum: EPA Distance Collaboration Services

A space to learn about web conference tools, team-based website packages, instant messaging, and other tools available to EPA employees

Topics: 7, Messages: 26. Last post: Mar 11, 2008 11:12 AM by Jean Balent

Select	Topic	Last Post	Messages
<input type="checkbox"/>	Issues with Oracle Web Conferencing	Mar 11, 2008 11:12 AM by Jean Balent	12
<input type="checkbox"/>	Web conferencing needs?	Mar 11, 2008 8:34 AM by Jean Balent	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Issues with Sametime	Feb 27, 2008 12:19 PM by Jean Balent	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	User Capacity Web Conference Test	Feb 27, 2008 12:14 PM by Jean Balent	2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other web meeting services	Feb 19, 2008 3:12 PM by Mark Hefflin	2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Issues with Oracle Workspaces	Jan 31, 2008 9:40 AM by Jean Balent	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	Distance Collaboration - Tools and Strategies f...	Nov 30, 2007 8:18 PM by Jean Balent	2

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Oracle Discussions 10.1.2.4.0 (07028.1008)

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NCER QA Project Workbench

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Manage Members

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Schedule a Web Conference

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For Additional Information or Brainstorming, Contact:

- **Holly Ferguson, ferguson.holly@epa.gov**
 - Director of Quality Assurance in the National Center for Environmental Research in EPA's Office of Research & Development
 - Member of the ESC Steering Committee
 - Willing to help you brainstorm about new ways to use the ESC to further the EPA's goals for QA and make your work life *easier!*

- **Jacques Kapuscinski, kapuscinski.jacques@epa.gov**
 - Science Connector Community Manager, Information Management Section of the EPA's Office of Research and Development
 - Leader of the ESC Steering Committee
 - Able to provide technical information, detailed usage instructions, examples of usage, and even make presentations on the use of the ESC for your EPA organization

<http://portal.epa.gov/ESC>

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