

The Learning Matrix

Assessment of technical expertise among the partner institutions

Dr Roger Clark, Learning Matrix project manager, 27/05/2005

The IT support departments of partners were asked to respond to a short questionnaire to confirm informal assessment of the level and range of expertise they might have in the open source technologies envisaged for the Learning Matrix project, and in Shibboleth. The 5 point scale used is immediately below, and the 4 anonymised responses are presented after that. Three of the four are based in Microsoft technologies (and some Novell) and have very little expertise in open source, java platform technologies. None have significant knowledge of Shibboleth. The responses, though not complete, do fit with the feeling that in a partnership of the region's institutions there will be a significant number of them that have little expertise in the technologies that the Learning Matrix is based on.

Scale:

1=no expertise, 2=basic awareness, 3=reasonable knowledge/expertise/experience, 4=good knowledge and practical experience, to 5=very high levels of expertise and experience

E.g. for a technology area you might respond 2 staff at level 2, 1 at level 5

Institution Name:

Institution A

Main technology base: (e.g Novell and Microsoft)

Microsoft 15 at level 4

Technology Area: Open-source, java platform technologies (e.g. Apache, Tomcat, Linux)

14 level 1, 1 at level 2

Comments:

Built bridge on open BSP platform (Linux)

Technology Area: Web services and SOAP

One at level 4

1 level 2

13 level 1

Comments:

Technology Area: Shibboleth

15 level 1

Comments

Institution Name:

Institution B

Main technology base: (e.g Novell and Microsoft)

NetWare, Solaris and Linux (some Microsoft IIS)

Technology Area: Open-source, java platform technologies (e.g. Apache, Tomcat, Linux)

5 at level 4

Comments:

Good in-house knowledge and practical experience of these technologies / platforms (5 staff)

Technology Area: Web services and SOAP

5 at level 4/5

Comments:

Dedicated in-house Web Services Development Team (5 staff)

Technology Area: Shibboleth

2/3

Comments:

Good in-house knowledge of established access, id and authentication services (LDAP, Athens-DA, etc), and a basic awareness of Shibboleth. Would welcome the opportunity to further contribute to this element of the pilot. (3 staff)

Institution Name:

Institution C

Main technology base: (e.g Novell and Microsoft)

Novell and Microsoft , although Novell is being phased out.

3 Staff level 5

Technology Area: Open-source, java platform technologies (e.g. Apache, Tomcat, Linux)

3 Staff level 1

Comments:

Technology Area: Web services and SOAP

3 Staff level 1

Comments:

Technology Area: Shibboleth

3 Staff level 1

Comments

Institution Name:

Institution D

Main technology base: (e.g Novell and Microsoft)

Microsoft - 14 staff at level 5

Technology Area: Open-source, java platform technologies (e.g. Apache, Tomcat, Linux)

The only area we have any expertise in is Linux

1 staff at level 4

Technology Area: Web services and SOAP

1 staff at level 4 (Microsoft technologies only)

Technology Area: Shibboleth

No expertise

