FSCOT minutes, 12/17/02, 1:30 p.m., Union 205

Present: Chang, Haddock, Havenstein, Montelone,Ross, Simmonds

Guests: Chuck Gould and Lloyd Walker

1. Chuck Gould reported on the status of the K-State Enterprise Authentication System (KEAS) Project (http://keas.cns.ksu.edu/). They are working to convert the current K-State computing ID's (Unix ID) to electronic ID's (eID's). Faculty members received an email on the topic on December 13. Faculty and staff members will be able to select, should they so desire, a new permanent eID in the open enrollment period of Jan. 6- Feb. 28. Students can choose their eIDs Feb. 3-28. The eID/password combination will become the Unix system ID and email address immediately. As of March 10, the eID/password combination will become the means to access KATS; K-State Online access will follow in May.The eID will provide for a common sign-on for the immediate future. This means you will be able to use the same ID and password for multiple systems. You will still need to login to each system separately. Single sign-on is not something an eID will initially provide, but the establishment of an eID as a common form of electronic identity will provide a base that single sign-on can be built upon.

If an individual is happy with his/her current computing ID, no action need be taken other than remembering to change one's password (the usual semester change) by Feb. 12. If one wishes a new, more euphonic or easily remembered eID, this can be done at the URL http://eid.k-state.edu/   The password change may be done at the same site. Every current employee or student will be allowed one free eID change during the open enrollment period. Subsequent changes or changes after March 1 will cost $50 each. Gould said that people should "change early" (to get your favorite eID) and "choose wisely" (to avoid having the pay the $50 to change again later). The eID is yours for life or until you have not used it for 5 years.

Aliases for email will be available at the same URL. A default alias (formal) based on a combination of your first and last name will be automatically generated. You will also be allowed the option of creating your own alias of up to 64 characters long including underscores and periods.

Departmental and college servers will not automatically adopt the eID for internal mail systems but some units are manually converting, e.g. Extension and Education. University Computing Labs will require the eID for full access as of January 1, 2003. This will require a minimum of a password change (the spring semester password change to be done between Jan. 1 and Feb. 12) to activate the eID.

Conversation and questions during the discussion brought up the issue of KATS access and the inconvenience of it timing out so quickly, which is a nuisance during advising sessions. Chang made the point that it seems that the system could be programmed to recognize whether one is logging on from a fixed IP address or a public terminal. In the latter case, the rapid logoff is a security feature but in the former it is annoying. Walker identified Mike Ediger as someone who might be able to either answer questions about the system or direct us to someone who can. Simmonds mentioned that Mel Chastain is chairing a committee that is looking at making

KATS information more accessible. Montelone will contact these individuals to try to get this issue on the agenda for our next meeting.

2. Lloyd Walker reported on the status of the Portal Prototype Project (PPP). The goals of the project were to a) establish a development environment that could make a portal possible; b) create a prototype with at least two functions; and c) develop skills that could be used in the Portal Project. The PPP team has the server in place and has begun to explore pieces of what will become the portal and how it will work. They have identified different ways to deliver content, worked on the format, worked out some difficulties involved in moving content from server to server and have documented these in order to facilitate subsequent administration, established standards for help functions, and begun to assemble a number of pieces.

In week four of the project, Jan. 6-10, they will meet with a marketing committee to develop a marketing plan that will use the prototype to generate awareness of and interest in the project. The prototype will be demonstrated to particular target audiences reflecting various constituencies across the University. The first demonstration of the prototype will occur on Jan. 9 for the PPP Steering Committee.

Desired outcomes of the PPP will be documentation of architectural issues and scalability, in order to have a solid understanding of what resources and commitments will be required for a full Portal Project to be launched. The PPP Steering Committee will continue to discuss an implementation plan with other outside consultants.

Ross reemphasized his concerns, raised last meeting, that once the PPP is over, it will fade away and there will be no portal. Walker agreed that this was a concern, as there is not funding currently in place for a full portal project. Support for personnel needed is a continuing issue. Havenstein and Walker discussed the difficulties in enabling and controlling departments that will develop their own portal content. Ross mentioned an article in Syllabus that deals with portals (URL is http://www.syllabus.com/article.asp?id=6986).

Walker outlined a possible scenario of how we might progress toward a full Portal Project: the identification of something that could be done with a defined time frame, e.g., six months. Once the tasks are identified, the questions of what is the right time frame and what personnel are required could be addressed. He reiterated the importance of using the Portal Prototype to sell the Portal Project.

Walker also provided information on the status of the LASER project. The first critical phase of legacy system conversion, operations analysis for the financial systems, will be carried out in the time period March 2003 through June 2004. Student information will be converted to the Oracle Student Solutions system in a subsequent subproject. Walker emphasized the interrelatedness of various ongoing IT projects, such as KEAS, LASER, and the Portal Project.

The meeting adjourned at 3 PM.