ITS Division Meeting

Nov. 5, 2007
PeopleSoft Version 9 Upgrade & Infrastructure Migration Project / Strategy

The University of Akron
PeopleSoft Version 9 Upgrade

Why and When?

• V8 goes off support for regulatory changes (like Tax Upgrades and Financial Aid) in August 2008

• Many new features to enhance existing functionality and eliminate customizations
  • Ex. Student Center, class permission options, absence management

• Similar to the V8 implementation in 2003-2004, we plan to implement the new version in late Sept. 2008 when we have a “window” between registration periods
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General Methodology

More formalized project methods will be employed

• Capital City Technologies consultants have been engaged to help plan and promote project management

• Project organizational structure for the upgrade has been presented to the UA community for review

• Project management principles will assist with issue identification, escalation, and resolution – including resource or skill shortages
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Initial Technology Steps

• PeopleSoft (Oracle) upgrade lab services already have been obtained and in progress
  • Delivery and execution of upgrade scripts to the first “copy of production” starts Jan. 14
  • Scripts will be delivered and executed for Oracle or DB2 target - target for decision is late November; otherwise delayed start of the first test move above
• The upgrade lab initial work is the preliminary “cut” for removing unnecessary customizations
Finalize Scope

Infrastructure Choices and Costs are being examined

- If we’re departing the mainframe, where happens to “Legacy”

- Total Cost of Ownership is important as well as alignment to Oracle technology

- New Functionality will be implemented as priorities and resources allow
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ITS Division-wide and campus-wide escalation

- Infrastructure changes
  - Web/App Server hardware/software
  - Database platform

- Related Software
  - Portal and third-party Integrations like D2L, CASHNET, NOLIJ, Mergetopia, new client software

- Technology Changes
  - XML Publisher
  - Web Services

- Education

  - Test, Test, Test…
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Testing and Development Challenges

• It takes a lot of test moves to be ready for the production migration
  • Minimal problems and minimal downtime for the actual migration; V7.5 → V8.0 - reduced several weeks to 30 hours – some schools were down two weeks!

• Mission Critical Processes must be 100% ready when needed
  • Registration starts about two weeks after go-live
  • Many processes will be tested after go-live
Testing and Development Challenges

- As many of us become more involved, it will be even more important to assess the impact of the project to other initiatives and identify issues.

- Project personnel have regular responsibilities that oftentimes are the highest priority:
  - test and implement regular maintenance to Version 8
  - Maintain and support existing applications and infrastructure