

# PROMISE

Participative Research labOratory for Multimedia and Multilingual Information Systems

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# Deliverable 7.1 Project Website and Project Fact Sheet

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0.2	29/09/2010	Draft	UNIPD	Comments and additions about Liferay	
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## **Abstract**

The project website has been designed and implemented. It maintains and makes accessible the collection of all the documents and tools of interest for PROMISE, among them: deliverables of the project, management reports, and demos. In addition, the website provides information on all initiatives and conferences of interest of the digital library domain, and in general of the information management area. In essence, it constitutes a portal to the international scene and an important part of the Network of Excellence brand. The website also contains a "citizen charter" which provides information about the project rational, objectives, expected results, partners, and funding. The citizen charter has been designed to be easy to read and understand.





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# **Executive Summary**

The PROMISE website is the center for collecting information that revolves around the project and is the reference point for the community and for the dissemination and exchange of information and documents.

The Web site has a single core (central Web site) that provides all the functionalities required by the users.

The adopted solution is an open source java-based CMS (Content Management System) called *Liferay*. This CMS combines the power of the java development environment together with a user friendly interface.

The CMS implements all its features as *portlet*, i.e. a simple java-based Web application. Every element of each page is a particular instance of portlet type.

A *portlet* is a Web component that processes requests and generates dynamic content. The content generated by a portlet is also called a fragment (e.g. HTML, XHTML, WML) and can be aggregated with other fragments to form a complete document.

Each element of the site can have a different level of permission. The main concepts behind the site permission system are those of actions and resources. Permission levels are defined as actions on a given resource.

The Message Boards and Wikis are the fulcrum of the users cooperation. This feature is a perfect solution for facilitating conversations within a department or project team that collaborates around shared ideas, or for capturing and sharing the tacit knowledge of our workgroup.





## 1 Introduction

The PROMISE website is the center for collecting information that revolves around the project and it is the reference point for the community and for the dissemination and exchange of information, and documents.

The Web site has been developed on the basis of the requirements specified in the following sections.

The main goals of the project are synthesized in the Fact Sheet. This document is described in its own section.

## 2 Addressed Problems

For the development of the Web site, a number of issues have been taken into consideration, namely:

- Keep informed the members of the community quickly, efficiently and possibly automatically so that the information goes to the user and the user is forced to go and look for news about the project
- Ability to manage documents circulating within the community at different levels such as public, private and shared. This approach is useful for the exchange of communications between groups and, inside the group, for the preparation of new documents
- Fast and automatic publication of various events and news related to the project
- Make an internal area for the members to share information and thus have a different permissions level for the community users
- Make it possible for different groups of the project to have their own Web space with the ability to publish information and manage their team while remaining within the framework of the project.

# 3 Technical Description and problems solution

The website has a single core (central Web site) that provides solutions for the problems treated in the previous section.

- It has one or more RSS feeds for automatic control of the news and communications to facilitate the users involved in the project to stay tuned automatically.
- It has a system for version management that allows the user to manage the issue of numbering, retrieving and reporting differences during the documents update.
- It has an information channel that combines two seemingly separate items such as forums and mailing lists to share information and solutions to various problems through two different channels such as Web (forum) and e-mail. This allows you to





post in a forum thread a mail-chain from a mailing list and consequently add answers to a chain through response on a forum.

• It has a graphical and intuitive way to edit and publish Web pages with no special skills of Web design.

## 4 The Infrastructure

The adopted solution is an open source java-based CMS (Content Management System) called *Liferay*<sup>1</sup> whose main features are shown in Figure 1.

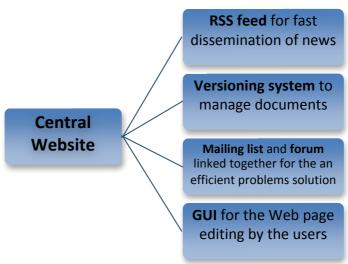


Figure 1: Main features of the Web site.

The *Liferay* CMS combines together the power of the java development environment and a user friendly interface. Runs on all major application servers & servlet containers, databases, and operating systems with over 700 deployment combinations. It is also compliant with the most used standards in the Web portals such: AJAX, iCalendar & Microformat, JSR-168, JSR-127, JSR-170, JSR-286 (Portlet 2.0), JSF-314 (JSF 2.0), OpenSearch.

#### Liferay provides:

- Accurate control over the various streams of work on the site in order to have complete vision of the changes made by users, the modified documents, etc., and be able to manage everything fast.
- The ability to create extensions to the system by developing plug-ins and extensions that are going to be incorporated in the system in transparent and automatic way. These extensions are managed by the CMS in order to standardize the presentation to the public and ensure greater flexibility for the future.

<sup>1</sup> Liferay corporate website: http://www.liferay.com/





- A safe and proven management for the upload, download and share, in order to make the problem of sorting and archiving of documents easier for the Web manager.
- A comprehensive performance-monitoring system, that is easy and intuitive for the maintainers and allows the rapid solution of problems related to various malfunctions.

## 5 The portlet philosophy

A portlet is a Web component that processes requests and generates dynamic content. The content generated by a portlet is also called a fragment (e.g. HTML, XHTML, WML) and can be aggregated with other fragments to form a complete document. Each element of a page is a particular instance of portlet type. As an example, Figure 2 shows the portlets of the PROMISE Home page.

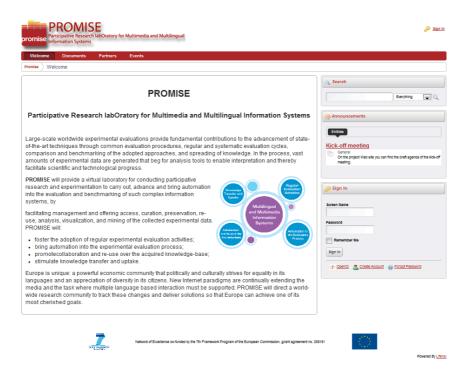


Figure 2: Each frame as search, announcements, the main content of page, etc. is a portlet.

Liferay provides by default more than 60 applications and tools included in the form of portlets accompanied by substantial development capabilities. These portlets are available out of the box or in the form of plug-ins. The set of portlet types can be easily extended because a portlet is implemented by a simple java application.

Figure 3 outlines the overall design of the portal infrastructure designed for PROMISE. The Liferay portal framework is at the top an Application Server and the user can access the portal through a Web browser. The final set of implemented portlets for the project PROMISE will include:





- 1. **Enterprise-level CMS component** (e.g. Web publishing modules, security policies, search services, localization and internationalization support, versioning).
- 2. Collaboration tools (e.g. Document Library, Calendar, Message Board, Wikis, etc.).
- 3. Extensions for new components control and deployment (e.g. the integration with a version control system in order to support the development process of new software modules).
- 4. **Tools for the automated evaluation** (e.g. modules specifically designed to support the operations of the evaluation infrastructure, such as the analysis and visualization of the experimental results).

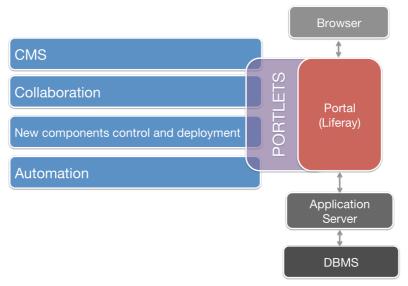


Figure 3: Overview of the main components for the portal infrastructure.

In Liferay, each portlet has its own decoration and controls. Using these controls, you can customize the corresponding portlet. For example, you can easily change the look and feel of a portlet by setting its borders and background colors, width, text style, window title, margins, and so on. By way of an example, Figure 4 presents the look and feel editing window.





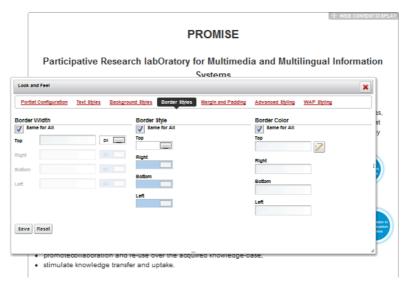


Figure 4: Look and feel editing window.

With the configuration control provided by the CMS, you can set permissions on each individual portlet so that only designated users are authorized to use it. You can import or export data, and you can even share the entire portlet by giving its code to other users.

Portlets can communicate with other portlets on the same page, irrespective of the technologies they are using. *The Web Content Management portlet* is a core Liferay/PROMISE-site portlet. It is accessible through the Control Panel and offers a full suite of tools to manage structured and unstructured content to be published in a Web site (Figure 5).

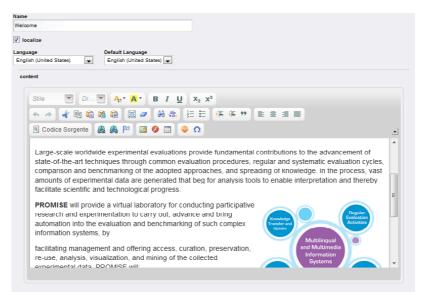


Figure 5: WYSIWYG GUI of the page content editor.





You can customize the location of each portlet on the displayed page by applying a template to change the layout. You can also create your own custom layouts and apply them to your pages. You can add and remove portlets to and from a Web page at any time.

# 6 Member area and users' permissions

Each element of the site can have a different level of permission.

The main concepts behind the site permission system are those of "actions" and "resources".

Permissions are defined as actions on a given resource: for example "view the message board post", "edit events of community X".

Permissions can be assigned directly to users, although it is recommended to do it through roles (which can be seen as a group of permissions), user groups, organizations or communities (Figure 6).

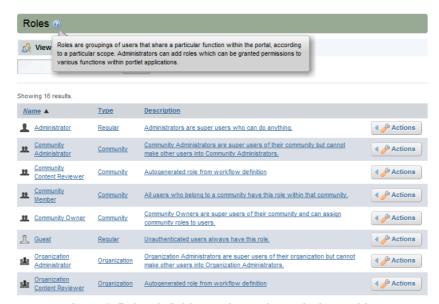


Figure 6: Roles definition and users' permissions table.

With this facility it is possible to mix together different layouts in a single Web page (Figure 7). For example, the same page can show different Web-forms or different images according to the user's role. Moreover, using the same facility, the documents management portlet allows to download or edit documents according to the permissions level of the user.





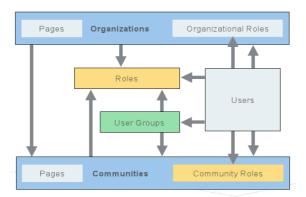


Figure 7: Roles diagram in Liferay.

Every working team can have a particular set of privileges and also a private and a public Web page. This means that each user, included in a specified group, can view and edit the team Web section. This is a sort of Chinese box between the main project site and the other sub-sites managed by each group.

When a user logs in the website, he/she is automatically matched to a set of permissions defined by the position or positions that he/she has within the community.

## 7 Message Boards

Message Boards are a perfect solution for facilitating conversations within a department or project team that collaborates around shared ideas, or for capturing and sharing the tacit knowledge of our workgroup (Figure 8).

The site Message Board tool rivals standalone products in its feature set with RSS alerts, email-based subscriptions and replies, and ties in with activity tracking. The Site Message Boards are secured by the granular system of authorizations that grants varying levels of control to administrators and users.







Figure 8: An example of message.

# 8 Document Library

The Document Library portlet provides document management that can be backed by different persistence systems, including check-in, checkout, metadata and versioning features. Moreover, it is equipped with customizable folders and act as a Web-based shared drive for all portal members. Each individual document can be uploaded, updated, edited or deleted by the portal members only by permissions. In this sense, folders become common repositories to organize documents for different purposes. Each folder and file can eventually be managed in the local file system using a WebDAV URL. Figure 9 shows an example of the main view for folders content.

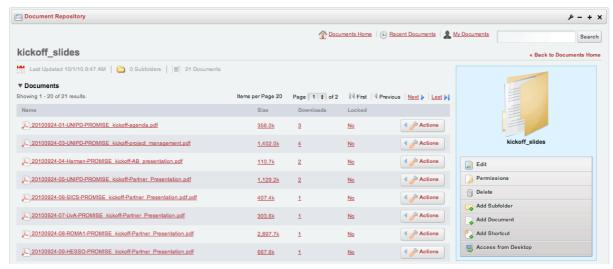


Figure 9: The Document Library portlet.





## 9 Wiki

The Wiki portlet, which has been integrated in PROMISE website, provides a straightforward wiki solution, keeping track of shared information about resources that require frequent editing. A wiki enables anybody to create and edit Web pages, and link all of those Web pages together without requiring any HTML or programming skills. Wiki can also act as shared notebook (e.g. a collection of productive tricks and techniques or guidelines documents), enabling team members to collaborate and share ideas and findings, and work together on documents.

## 10 The Fact Sheet

The Fact Sheet briefly summarizes the goals, the activities and the most important data regarding the project. It is divided into different sections, namely:

- An overview of the project
- The PROMISE action lines
- The project's use cases
- The list of partners
- · The list of the work packages
- The main contacts

The Fact Sheet is presented in Appendix A.

### 11 Conclusions

The PROMISE Web site is built on a solid and versatile structure that offers to the community a useful instrument of work and sharing of ideas. This is not a simple website with the project description, but it is the pivot on which the community rotates. The adoption of a CMS is a choice made to ensure a safe and constant support of the structure upon which the information of the site is based. Particular attention has been given to managing the news and events related to the site, in order to advertise firstly its existence, and secondly the activities of the project between users and communities linked to it.

This document provides also some details about the PROMISE Fact Sheet.





# **Appendix A: PROMISE Fact Sheet**



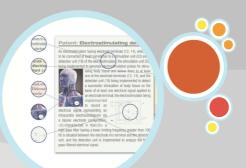
#### **About PROMISE**

Information systems need to handle multimedia and multilingual data which makes the task to build new and better such systems ever more demanding, whether in a research or an industrial setting. Experiments, evaluation and testing is a necessary part of that process PROMISE aims to help.

PROMISE will provide a virtual and open laboratory for conducting participative research and experimentation in which it will be possible to carry out, advance and bring automation into the evaluation and benchmarking of complex multimedia and multilingual information systems, by facilitating management and offering access, curation, preservation, re-use, analysis, visualization, and mining of the collected experimental data.

#### PROMISE Facts

- Network of Excellence co-funded by 7th Framework Program of the Europen Commission, grant agreement no. 258191
- Coordinated by the University of Padua
- 10 partners from 7 countries
- Sept 2010 Aug 2013 (36 months)



#### **PROMISE** action lines

PROMISE will pursue the action lines:

- Foster the adoption of regular and thorough experimental evaluation activities. PROMISE will rely on large data sets; tackle realistic tasks and use cases; advance the evaluation methodologies to better support the envisioned tasks and use cases; involve large developer and researcher communities; provide a proper evaluation infrastructure to support the evaluation activities; continue and innovate the successful Cross-Language Evaluation Forum (CLEF) campaigns.
- Bring automation into the experimental evaluation process:
   PROMISE will propose methods and provide tools for the creation of larger experimental collections and increase the number and the size of the conducted experiments.



- Promote collaboration and re-use over the acquired knowledge-base: PROMISE will curate, preserve, and enrich the collected experimental data and provide the means for an easy comparison with and a meaningful interpretation and visualization of the experimental results.
- Stimulate knowledge transfer and uptake: PROMISE will disseminate know-how, tools, and best practices about multilingual and multimedia information systems; facilitate the uptake and participation by commercial entities and industries.

Network of Excellence co-funded by the 7th Framework Program of the European Commission grant agreement og 258191





### PROMISE use cases

• Unlocking culture will deal with information access to cultural heritage material held in large-scale digital libraries.



- Search for innovation will deal with patent search and its peculiar requirements to seek out a standardized method and framework for evaluating different tools for the intellectual property.
- Visual clinical decision support will deal with visual information connected with text in the radiology domain.



## Work package overview

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**WP2 - Stakeholders Involvement and Technology Transfer**Jussi Karlgren, SICS

WP3 - Evaluation Infrastructure

Maristella Agosti, UNIPD

WP4 - Evaluation Metrics and Methodologies

Maarten de Rijke, UvA

WP5 - Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing

Giuseppe Santucci, ROMA1

WP6 - Evaluation Activities

Henning Müller, HES-SO

WP7 - Dissemination, IPR, and Resources

Khalid Choukri, ELDA

#### **Partners**

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