eduSocial

Federation Style 'Social Networking'
Niels van Dijk, SURFnet, I2 Spring Meeting 2010

16 april 2010
It's big...

OpenSocial's Monthly Reach

Millions of Registered Users

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- MySpace
- hi5
- orkut
- Netiog
- Hyves
- Friendster
- Yahoo
- LinkedIn
- Ning
- mail.ru
- XiaoNei
- 51.com
- Tianya
- Quepasa
- MySpace.cn
- Xing
- IWiW
- Mixi
- Sonico
- Fanbox
- YiQi
- Yonja

SURFnet. We make innovation work
Topics

- Characteristics
- @EDU
- Internals
- Federations
- Collaboration
- Virtual Organizations
- Demo
OpenSocial Characteristics

• Open Standard API providing Javascript & REST API for exchanging info on:
  – Gui elements (Gadgets),
  – People,
  – Groups,
  – Activities
• Service Oriented
• Governance: OpenSocial foundation
• Apache Shindig is ref. implementation (Java & PHP)
• Proven technology, scales at internet level
OpenSocial @EDU

• **Products**
  - Sakai 3.0
  - Confluence 3.2
  - IBM, SAP, Alfresco
  - Liferay, eXo Portal
  - iGoogle & other Social Networking

• **Usecase: Portals & Collaboration**
  - Portals (Utwente)
  - Open Grid Community
  - Virtual Organizations
OpenSocial Internals -1

OpenSocial has clients, containers and apps
OpenSocial Internals -2

- **Gadgets API**
  - Interchangeable 'mini-applications'
  - HTML, CSS, and JavaScript
  - Much like Java Portlets, but client side
  - Multi platform, inc. Browser, Desktop & Mobile devices (Android, Iphone)

- **Social Data API**
  - *Person, Group, Activity* attributes and methods
  - Javascript & REST API
OpenSocial & Federations

- **OpenSocial Container as a SP**
  - Provision Persistent Data Layer
  - Map federation attributes to OpenSocial attributes
  - eduPerson, Schac fit rather well
  - OpenSocial has a lot more attributes, but....

- **eduSocial API extension**
  - Some edu attributes missing
  - Extending OpenSocial is already part of the spec :)
OpenSocial & Collaboration

 SURFfederatie
  IdP
  IdP

Person attributes

Group attributes

SURFteams

OpenSocial Person & Group attributes

AuthN

Users
VO scenario's - 1

• **Why a federated OpenSocial GUI?**
  – VO admin interfaces
  – Apps will be distributed
  – Non technical Collabmins
  – Drop, Drag and *Share* apps
  – SSO between federated GUI and services
  – Create a VO 'workspace'

• **Privacy & User consent**
  – Restrict gadget attribute consumption
  – White/black-list Gadgets in Container
  – Sandbox Gadgets (CAJA)
  – 3-legged oAuth
VO scenario's - 2

Domestication & Provisioning

• No domestication for Gadgets required
• Lightweight REST API for Person and Group data
• Multiple Client libraries available (PHP, Java, .Net, Ruby, Phyton, Objective-C, Actionscript)
• Signed Requests (oAuth)
• 2-legged oAuth for trusted parties
Conclusions

OpenSocial
• is very useful for collab, also in edu context
• uptake in edu is growing
• aligns well with current efforts in federation & collab space
• may provide a standardized domestication framework for SP centric attribute exchange
References

Opensocial
http://www.opensocial.org

OpenSocial Enterprise Whitepaper
http://www.opensocial.org/page/enterprise-opensocial

Apache Shindig
http://shindig.apache.org/

Collaboration Infrastructure
http://www.surfnet.nl/coin