

Update Number 1 Week of April 4, 2006

Project Leadership Meeting Summaries & Decisions

Project Geared Up!

With the clearly defined implementation date of October 2007 in full view, the SIS Implementation Teams are once again focused on bringing the new SIS to MCCCCD. Twenty-five college leads are actively engaged in the CIT leadership group and meet on a bi-weekly basis. In addition, nineteen district and college staff is engaged in the technical aspects of the project through the project leadership team. We are excited to announce that a revised detail project plan is forthcoming.

Overall Project Status

Project Update

- The upgrade from version 8.0 to version 8.9 is underway. The new version of software has already been installed and the team is in the process of planning the detailed steps necessary to complete the upgrade. It not only involves upgrading to a new version of software, but it also involves migrating all of the Maricopa data, setup, customizations, and security that was completed in version 8.0. Specific dates and details will be forthcoming including when the initial preview of the Maricopa 8.9 version will be available.
- Another part of the 8.9 upgrade is migrating to an Oracle database platform. This will be done in conjunction with the 8.9 upgrade and will be mostly invisible to end users although there are significant technical advantages with this migration.
- Over the past week, significant conversation took place on the impact of student financial aid related to the planned implementation date of October 2007. Valuable input was provided by the financial aid council and the CIT leadership. A detailed list of functional issues has been developed.

Issues Report

End to End Demonstrations

PLT and CIT leadership continue to develop and refine an end to end demonstration of the functionality showing how a student would progress through SIS from a newly recruited student prospect to posting of a degree. An initial presentation was made to the CIT team leads. The presentations for the college will include: demonstration of the version 8.0 functionality that will move into version 8.9; identification of 8.9 functionality, and basic system navigation. The demonstrations will be conducted by members of CIT leadership.

Learning Bin

Each Update will include a brief explanation of an issue or functional aspect of the project.

- As you know the Project Oversight Group (POG) has recommended and CEC has approved a shift to an Oracle database. This week's Update will address two questions:

- What is an Oracle database?

The database is simply the software that stores the data. It works with the SIS application to store, retrieve, and modify all the data that you, as SIS users, work with in your jobs. As long as things work smoothly, it stays in the background and you won't need to care about it.

- Why has the projected moved to this environment?

The primary reason we are moving to Oracle is that Oracle Corporation recently bought PeopleSoft, including the Student Administration application MCCCDC is implementing as our Student Information System. Long-term, that environment gives us the best platform upon which to maintain and support the application. In addition, the Oracle database is the "industry standard" and has the best track record in the industry in terms of features, performance, and stability.

Project Questions

If you have any questions about this project, feel free to contact:

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