Developing a Shared Language for Discussing Networked Learning Systems

Herbert Remidez
herbert@coe.missouri.edu

Joshua S. Gottdenker
jsg0af@mizzou.edu

James M. Laffey
laffeyj@missouri.edu

Dale R. Musser
musserda@missouri.edu

Ran-Young Hong
rhe06@mizzou.edu

Linda Espinosa
espinosal@missouri.edu

Christopher J. Amelung
chrisa@coe.missouri.edu

Center for Technology Innovations in Education, University of Missouri-Columbia

ABSTRACT

New network-based learning systems are coming into use that offer the possibility of integrating curriculum experiences and student information systems as well as changing the metaphor of the Internet from library to workspace. We will call these integrated and process oriented systems Networked Learning Systems (NLS). A NLS is tentatively defined as a program or set of programs designed to operate over a network and support users as they undertake tasks or participate in processes related to learning. CSCL is one type, albeit an important one, of process that can be enabled by NLS. This interactive event is intended to help participants build a shared language to facilitate discussions related to NLS. Through participation in a series of online and face-to-face activities, participants will build knowledge of many networked learning systems currently available, identify important dimensions of these systems, understand what aspects of those dimensions are important and why, and develop an understanding of how the work they are doing relates to the field of NLS. Participants in this session will undertake the online activities within the Shadow netWorkspace™ (SNS) (http://sns.internetschools.org), a NLS being developed by the Center for Technology Innovation in Education at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Keywords
Networked Learning Systems, Shadow netWorkspace

EVENT DESCRIPTION

One week prior to the conference, those wishing to participate should email Herbert Remidez at herbert@coe.missouri.edu and notify him that they would like to sign up for the CSCL interactive session titled “Developing a Shared Language for Discussing Networked Learning Systems.” Interested parties will receive directions on how to access a set of activities that guide them through reviewing a collection of similar systems,
related white papers, and research publications. While undertaking these activities, participants will use the Shadow netWorkspace’s communication support tools to collaboratively identify important characteristics and dimensions of networked learning systems. Participants will then come together for a face-to-face at the CSCL conference to discuss their findings, continue building a shared vocabulary for discussing NLS, and discussing how their work relates to the field of networked learning systems. To enhance participants’ learning, the co-presenters will interact with participants throughout the online and face-to-face activities.

EXAMPLES
Participants will employ SNS to complete a series of online activities designed to help them build their knowledge of networked learning systems. These activities will guide participants through the exploration and identification of important dimensions of networked learning systems. As part of these activities, participants will employ functions of SNS such as asynchronous and synchronous communication tools, workgroups, and the file management system. A face-to-face session will then follow where participants will undertake activities designed to help them share their new knowledge and continue building a shared vocabulary for discussing NLS.

SUMMARY OF SCHEDULING NEEDS
Before the conference, organizers will need to notify those who might wish to participate in this interactive session to contact Herbert Remidez at herbert@coe.missouri.edu for directions on how they can participate. For the face-to-face session, we will need a room that can hold approximately 25 people for 90 minutes. This room should have at least one Internet connected computer with a projector. Ideally, the conference organizers could supply us with three wireless networked lap top computers that participants could use during the 90-minute session.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS WE CAN ACCOMMODATE
We can accommodate approximately 25 participants.

SUMMARY OF EQUIPMENT NEEDS
1 Internet connected computer with projector.
3 wireless lap top computers could be used to facilitate the face-to-face discussion.
This proposal assumes that conference participants will have access to Internet connected computers before and during the conference.

BUDGETARY NEEDS
We do not anticipate any additional support needs beyond what we have stated.

MAIN POINT OF CONTACT
Herbert Remidez
Center for Technology Innovations in Education
111 London Hall
Columbia, MO 65211
(573) 884-1990
herbert@coe.missouri.edu