

Elk test in Austria



Evolutions of a large-scale LMS change and its consequences. A critical Outline.

Annabell Lorenz – December 4, 2009



University of Vienna

- founded in 1365
- first email in 1986
- first leased line to CERN in 1990
- Elearning in 2004 WebCT Vista, university-wide
- Tender in 2007, **change** in 2008



E-Learning | specific requirements

72.000 students

6.200 lecturers

35 study programmes (SP)

large-scale university

heterogeneous media
skills

heterogeneous
curriculums (traditional
and Bologna)

heterogeneous courses
(scalability!)

Blended Learning



Timeline

| 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| <p>WebCT Vista 2.1</p> <p>Strategy project UG 2002</p> <p>Blended Learning Voluntariness ! Multipliers in faculties</p> | <p>WebCT 3.0 Cluster operation</p> | <p>Merger of BLACKBOARD and WebCT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • software quality + support <p>urgent needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • integration • Source code • Interfaces • Withdrawal of upgrade tool | <p>Winter semester: MOODLE pilot with 79 courses</p> <p>BLACKBOARD Vista university-wide</p> <p>November: Call for Tender „Software and Services“</p> | <p>Winter term 2008 October FRONTER University-wide Implementation</p> <p><i>Parallel operation</i> Fronter Blackboard Moodle</p> <p>Migration</p> | <p>Fronter implemented ✓</p> <p>official university-wide platform</p> <p>Shutoff Blackboard ✓</p> <p>Migration completed ✓</p> |
| <i>E-Learning monolith</i> | | | <i>E-Learning-Infrastructure</i> | | |
| WebCT 25 | WebCT >300 | WebCT 4.0 ~ 900 | Moodle: 79 BB 4.→0: ~ 1300 | Fronter: 916 Blackboard: ~600 Moodle:345 | W2009 Fronter: 1727 Moodle:652 External : 185 Not in OCD: 100 total: 2664 |



Why does a University change their LMS?

→ LMS change was by no means sought at the beginning!

- **Legal and organizational preparations**
- **Tendering procedure with negotiations**
- **Short implementation deadlines**



Main reasons

1. Merger 2006 WebCT/Blackboard (withdrawal upgrade-tool)

- loss in quality of software and support
- first tender considerations
- Mini Moodle setup as fallback scenario in WS2007

2. Focus on **integration** in system landscape

- needs open structure, disclosure of code !

3. **Expiry** of license agreement with Blackboard (02/2009)

4. **Costs**: expected license **fees**?

- Tender „Software und Services“ (working group)



Tender Basic Requirements

Split in Software and Services ✓

Price-Performance-Ratio (60% prize) ✓

Technical aptitude (40%, criteria catalogue) ✓

Commercial *and* Open Source ✓

Focus on Integration ✓



Requirements | bidders

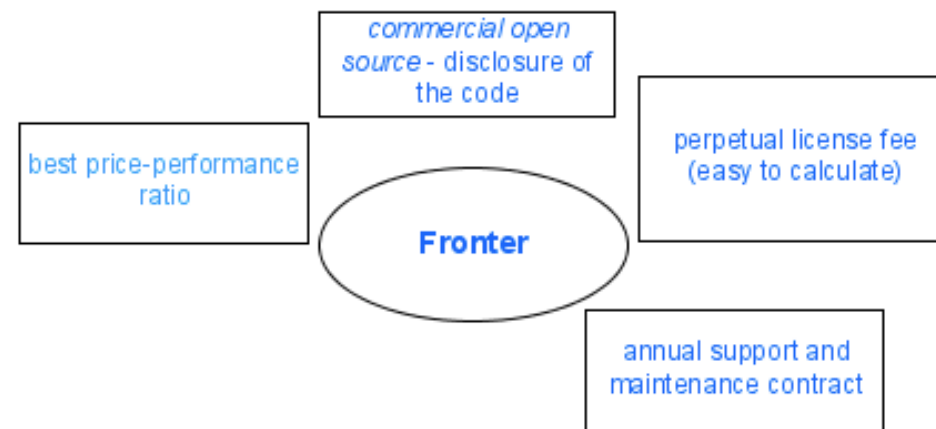
Proposals for migration (within parallel operation)

Self-hosted environment

Disclosure of code

Influence on roadmap

License (5 year contract)



6 June 2008: Fronter (commercial open source) won



Implementation phase Sept. 2008

- DEADLINES: 8 weeks (semester starts on Oct. 1)
- 10 employees: admins, programming, support, editorial office, webdesign, didactics, instructional design, tutorials for staff and faculties
- local SVN Repository (self hosted!)
- Backuping solution (MySQL and PITR)
- SSO solution
- Migration started in parallel operation
- Fallback: Moodle



Developments until 2009

- Language change as a user-setting (Nov 2008)
- Group administration (eGate, March 2009)
- Migration to Fronter/Moodle (parallel operation)
- Room Copy (March 2009)
- Result Matrix/Grade Book adjustments (ongoing)
- MediaWiki Integration in all LMS
- Central access „portal“: eGate



eGate | administration

- Central access
- Editable course list
- Group administration
- Administration tools for teachers
- Grade export
- Integration to UNIVIS-registration system



The screenshot displays three course entries in a list. Each entry includes a course ID, a title, a 'Fronter' logo, a 'LV ausblenden' link, a status message, and an 'LV verwalten' button.

- Course 1:** 2008W 030169 1 2008W 030169 Übung zur Einführung in die Rechtswissenschaften und ihre Methoden >>. Status: Sie sind **Lehrende/-r** in diesem E-Learning-Kurs!
- Course 2:** 2008W 030635 1 Spitzer - Perner - Perner/Spitzer >>. Status: Sie sind **Lehrende/-r** in diesem E-Learning-Kurs!
- Course 3:** 2008W 040083 1 2008W 040083 KFK WINF: Business Process Management >>. Status: Sie sind **Lehrende/-r** in diesem E-Learning-Kurs!

<http://elearning.univie.ac.at>

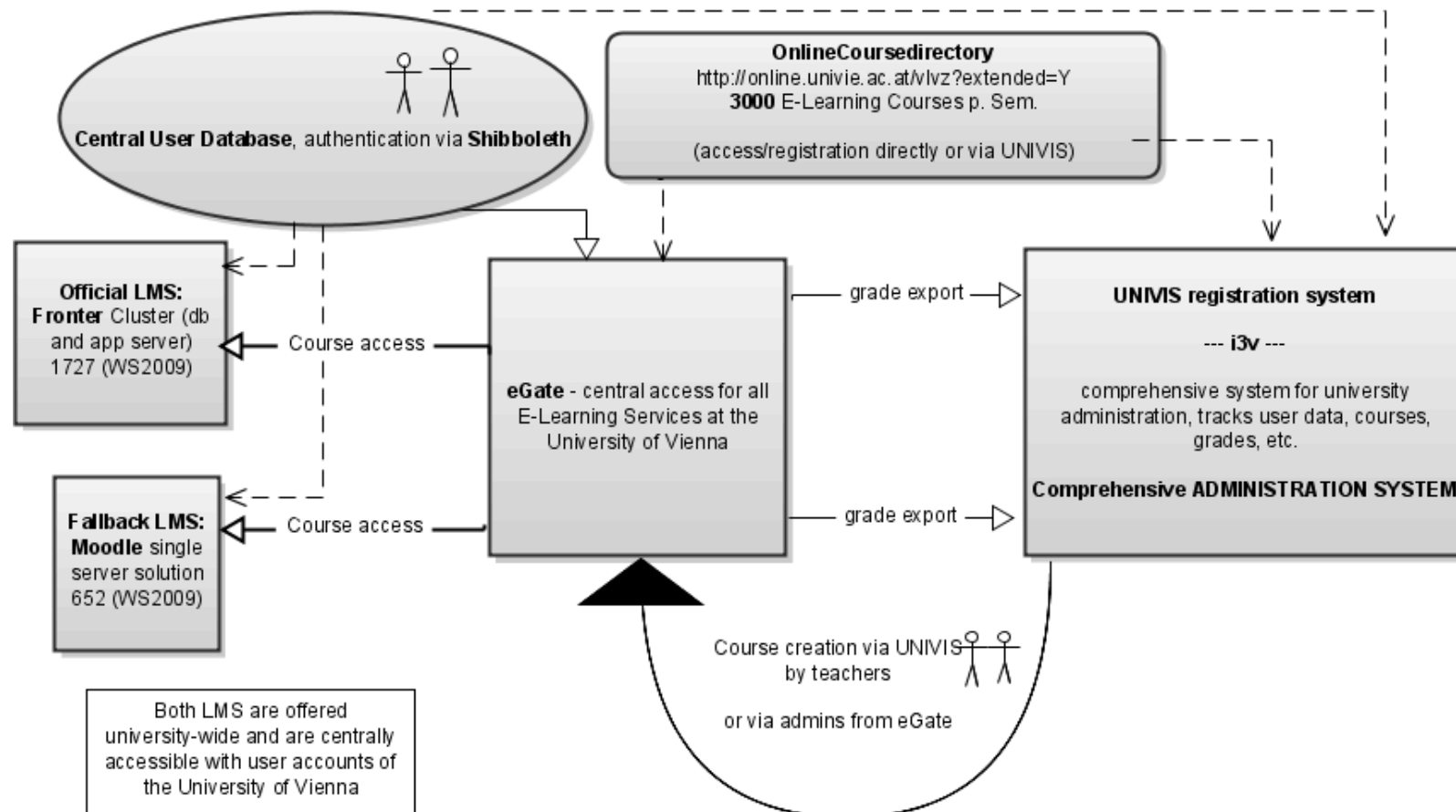


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E-Learning Infrastructure



Prospects

- Administration of Grades
- Hand-In
- Communication Tools
- On- and Offline Testing



Thank you !

Questions?

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