COMMUNITY LEARNING SPACE PROJECT
Canada's Technology Triangle – Pilot #2
Committee Meeting

Wednesday, July 9, 2003
3:00 pm – 4:45 pm
Social Planning Council K-W,
68 Queen St. N., Kitchener

Present:
Trudy Beaulne   Social Planning Council of Kitchener-Waterloo
Linda Fegan   Canada's Technology Triangle
Doug Mulholland   Computer Systems Group, University of Waterloo
Thom Ryan   Canada's Technology Triangle
Jennifer Uttley   Computer Systems Group, University of Waterloo
Kyle Young   Computer Systems Group, University of Waterloo

Regrets:
Shirley Fenton   University of Waterloo Computer Systems Group

Demonstration

Doug demonstrated the development version of the Community Learning Space, starting with arts and cultural resources. This learning space was launched to the public May 2. It demonstrates the learning space value added to the pilot partner's data. The same value can be added to the economic development data. Doug then demonstrated the current economic development learning space reviewing the business directory application.

Questions:
1. Are the maps "real"; that is, can they be used on the production site?
They are "real " for the duration of the CLS research project but not when the project ends. CTT should investigate possible map sources for its own use after completion of the project. We are investigating various possibilities relevant to each learning space.

2. What do the Map Art maps cost?
Do not know the current cost.

3. How is an entry connected to the map?
An entry is connected via postal code.

4. Are rural entries differentiated more than by postal code (one rural postal code may cover a very large area or be a post office location)?
CSG expects to soon be able to associate entries with specific UTM locations.

5. Is content such as the press releases managed via a backend accessed through the internet?
Yes. Doug gave a brief demonstration of the partner administration.

6. Who is maintaining the arts and cultural resources content?
WRAC is currently adding press releases, profiles and updating the planning calendar but is planning on providing access to organizations in the near future so that they can add press releases and update the calendar.

7. If CTT added "map it" to the application on CTT's web site what would happen (i.e. where would the mapping server be)?
For the pilot project, it could link into the learning space. In the future it could be one of several scenarios (e.g. mPowered or licensed technology). CLS content could be presented as a frame within a CTT page.

8. Would it be possible to change the topic menu to include other data such as a catalogue of photos? Yes

Discussion of Challenges

Real estate and land use data does not include postal codes. How can the data be mapped? The data could be attached to the map using postal codes, UTM or posted coordinates. It may require that EDOs add the postal code for real estate listings.

The EDOs need to be convinced that the learning space will not add to their workload.

The EDOs are concerned about their data being re-represented on another web site because it might remove traffic from the existing site. It is important to demonstrate the value added and, by linking the sites, show the possibility of increased traffic. The learning space logs hits and would also log links into the site from the CTT site. The project should communicate the use and traffic from different entry points.

We might also make the partners more visible in the learning space by perhaps adding the city and township logos to the page.

The application should make it easy to return to the partner site from wherever you go. For example, a "map it" link might launch a new window omitting all of the learning space navigation so that the CTT context is not lost. Each learning space could go deep into the partner space but would keep the learning space link back.

We need to emphasize that we are building social capital by creating links between the community partners. Social capital facilitates coordination and cooperation between organizations for mutual benefit.

Review of Objectives

1. Better Assist Businesses and Individuals:

Geo-Mapping
   a. Add geo-mapping to the business directory detail listing to locate the business on a map.
   b. Add geo-mapping to the real estate detail listing to locate the property on a map.
   c. Add geo-mapping to the land detail listing to locate the property on a map.
   d. Add notification application to permit clients to register criteria for notification when a property listing is added or status modified.
   e. Extend the current real estate application to provide geo-map search.

Items a, b, c and e are already underway. Item d is not yet implemented. It is intended for notification when information changes.

2. Survey Information
   a. Add a survey form to the business directory.
   b. Add email notification ability to send survey information to EDOs as appropriate.

Not yet implemented. It is intended to allow proactive businesses to manage their own data and to keep the data current. It is estimated that his could reduce the EDO's workload by 20%.

3. Forward Seeking
   a. Integrate the initiatives of the Learning Spaces Pilot Research Project; to enhance and inform employment growth initiatives through the cooperation of economic, social, cultural, environmental, rural and urban, traditional and leading-edge aspects of the community.

This item will come at the end of the research project. CTT is interested in the data from the other learning spaces including the Rural Switchboard and Quality of Life and might link to it from CTT's site. Possibly other learning spaces are interested in the economic development data.

There was a brief discussion of the status of Connect Ontario submission. A response is expected before September 2003 (i.e., sooner than originally planned).

Review of feedback process
Trudy asked that we discuss timelines for proceeding. Jennifer outlined how we had proceeded with the Waterloo Regional Arts Council starting with face-to-face meetings/demonstrations and then questionnaire and response via email.

Thom thought that it was a good way to proceed but would begin with a small group at CTT and when ready would repeat the process (demonstration/questionnaire/response) with the EDOs. Based on feedback from this group, would later launch to a wider audience – target end of September.

Thom will continue as the direct partner contact but Linda should be copied on all communication

Next Steps and Timelines

1. Monday July 14, 2003
    -   Doug will provide access to external beta via userid/password for CTT feedback group
    -   Thom will provide Jennifer with a list of email addresses for the feedback group
    -   Jennifer will email a questionnaire for feedback responses.

2. The CTT feedback group will respond as soon as possible and CSG will modify the learning space based on feedback as appropriate.

3. The cycle of email questionnaire will be repeated until CTT is confident that the learning space is ready for the EDOs. The target is for late August.

4. CSG will demonstrate the learning space for the EDOs and then work through the feedback loop with this group.

5. Based on the feedback, release to a larger audience, possibly the public, by late September.

Other
None.