



JA-SIG & uPortal The Hull Experience

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JASIG Background & Origins

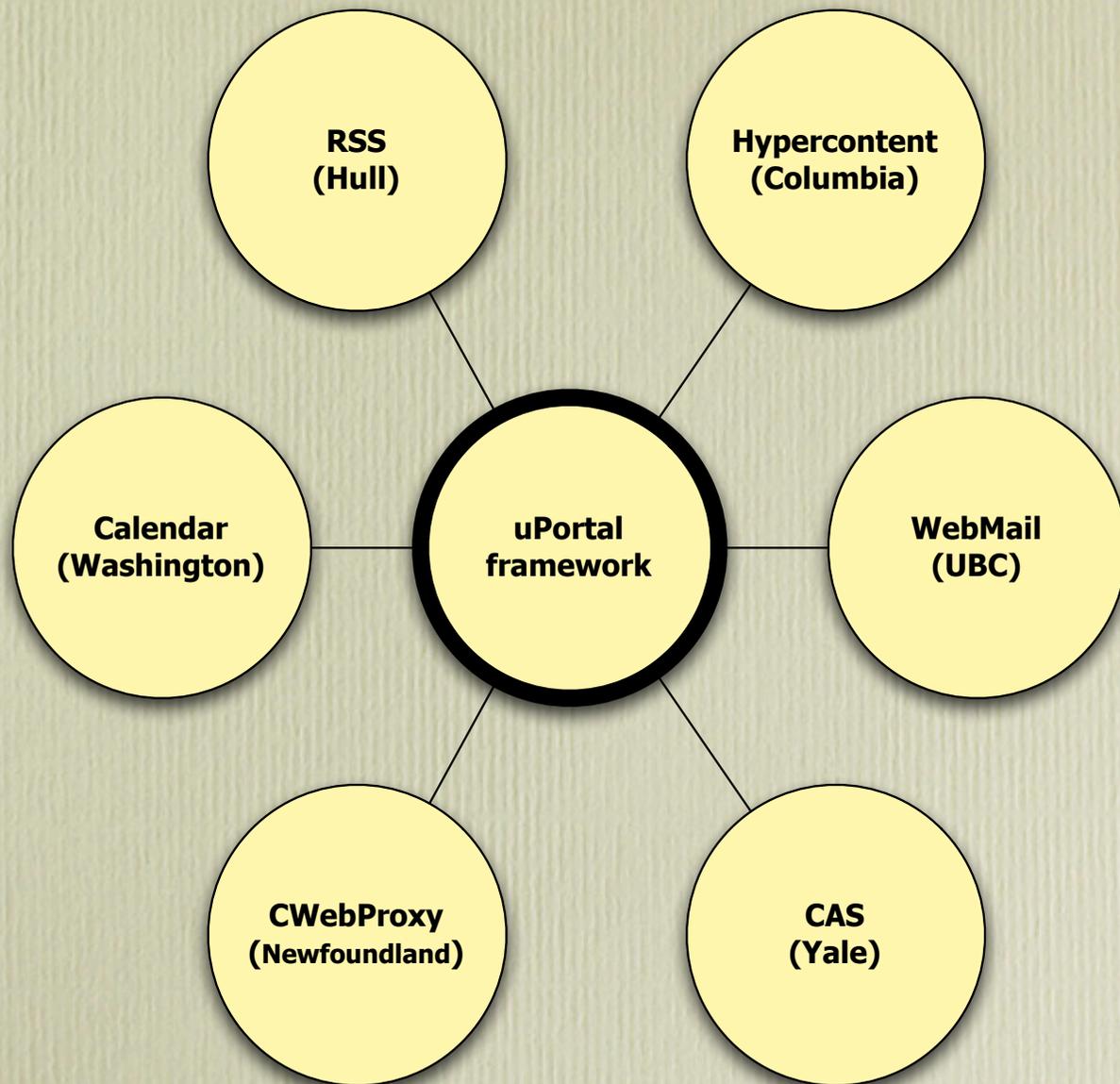
- “Administrative Computing” integration issues
- Potential of Java
- Sponsorship from Sun Microsystems
- Portal framework identified as priority 2000 >
 - Needs articulated by US HE
 - Expensive commercial products
 - Suitability for purpose
 - Lack of control



uPortal Project

- Mellon funding for uPortal project
 - HE Community + commercial contractors
 - License for use/redistribution with or without mod
- Adoption by community
 - 120 HEI/FEI/CC+ launched or close to launch
- Adoption by product vendors
 - SunGard/SCT - Luminis
- Adoption by integration consultants
 - IBS/Unicon





uPortal Adoption at Hull

- Resistance to OSS
 - Lack of familiarity
 - Distrust of “free” software
 - (AKA “I want someone to shout at!”)
- In mitigation...
 - Hull had retained in-house development team
 - Java and XSLT skills already targeted



Overcoming Resistance

- Clear and articulated evaluation criteria
 - Extended review process - time + involvement
- Evaluation of providers: companies & community
 - Lists
 - Take-up
 - Conferences and direct engagement
 - References



Cost Assessment

- Final stage of evaluation
 - Installation as part of extended review
- Implementation and support
 - Channel developer, support, DBA = 1.7 FTE (20m+ongoing)
- Portal as e-Service delivery layer
 - Difficult to measure ROI of enabling technology

“When you have the ROI case, use it. When you don’t, call it strategic and do it anyway.”

Enterprise Services Architecture, Dan Woods



Experience so far ...

- UPortal flexibility
 - Based on origins in community
- Support from community
- Cost – anticipated
- Participation in community - played in
 - Accessibility work
 - Quickstart document
 - RSS channel
 - User needs evaluation work



Java Architectures Special Interest Group

<http://www.ja-sig.org/>

e-Services Integration

<http://www.hull.ac.uk/esig/>

PORTAL Project

<http://www.fair-portal.hull.ac.uk/>

CREE Project

<http://www.hull.ac.uk/esig/cree/>

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