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PESC to Launch EdUnifySM SOA Governance Framework at EDUCAUSE 2010
New Global Web Service Registry to Improve Integration
of Information Systems and Reduce IT Costs

Washington, D.C. – The Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) today announced the first major public demonstration and beta release of EdUnify to be held at the EDUCAUSE 2010 Conference this October 12-15, 2010 in Anaheim, California. EdUnify is a Web services registry and suite of semantic web tools designed to reduce costs of integration and improve efficiency by providing a service-oriented architecture (SOA) governance framework for education.

The higher education industry spends approximately $25 Billion per year (based on PESC research from industry resources) supporting proprietary connections and movement of data across disparate applications and systems inside and outside the institution. The utilization and effectiveness of data and information technologies is severely limited by differing access methods, protocols, data definitions, and proprietary designs. Unintended consequences resulting from disproportionate spending to implement and maintain services impede investment in innovation and hinder development on new services for students. This creates a significant amount of unnecessary redundancy and places a tremendous burden on the educational investment society as a whole is making.

“The universal concerns of rising IT costs and funding are at the top of everyone’s lists. We must take action now and embrace common sense, cost-effective solutions like EdUnify,” stated Michael Sessa, President and CEO of PESC. “EdUnify provides a standards-based framework for Web services, that when combined with other proven technologies like the InCommon Federation, creates a comprehensive solution for SOA governance as well.”
"Web service registries, indexes, and interoperability services have transformed the way we collaborate in fields such as cancer research and life sciences," said Stephen Wheat, Chief IT Architect for Emory University. "The core grid services of caGrid and the BioCatlogue web service registry, on which EdUnify is based, are prime examples of this phenomenon. The members of the EdUnify Task Force believe that these same innovations can be brought to bear in education. These technologies will provide a catalyzing foundation for a new generation of online services and applications to improve student outcomes, increase student access to education, facilitate student mobility, and make more information resources available to students, faculty, and administrators."

Dave Moldoff, PESC Board Member and CEO & Founder of Academy One, said "This is a great step toward our goal of interoperability while improving the effectiveness of our IT resources. The emergence and use of web services will accelerate as organizations wrestle the issues of SOA Governance to the ground with EdUnify. Leveraging and reusing web services has been restrained by most organizations. Many have just stayed on the sidelines waiting to see how things shake out. Now, with the leadership of PESC focused on the underlying resistance and concerns of SOA governance, I believe we will see a new wave of efforts to simplify the bridges across disparate data systems using web services and abstracted data methods."

**EdUnify Overview**

EdUnify will include a lookup service that lists integration services, access locations for electronic services, protocols, payloads and authentication which are advertised by data exchange partners in various configurations. This lookup service enables institutions, states and others the ability to advertise their electronic services so others can find those services and automate their connections and their data trading needs.

Examples of Registered EdUnify Web Services:

- Student and Faculty Data Services
- Institutional and Academic Data Services
- Course and Program Transferability Disclosure Services
- 21st Century Learners Spanning Multiple Institution Services
- Student Access to their Data through Electronic Services
- Enabling New and Innovative Technologies to Support Teaching and Learning Services

Subsequent phases of EdUnify will expand to include national and international functionality; an agent to link PK12 and workforce systems with higher education systems; functionality to enable timely disclosure to students through an academic transfer network regarding transferability of credits; as well as the option for a virtual private registry service for organizations who need their own private SOA governance tools."
EdUnify Leadership and Members

Leadership of EdUnify includes project director David Moldoff of the PESC Board of Directors and CEO and Founder of AcademyOne; and co-chairs Jim Wager, Vice President of SCRIP-SAFE International, and Stephen Wheat, Chief IT Architect at Emory University and active member of OpenEAI. Over 60 people from 30 colleges, universities, system vendors, online service providers, and government agencies are involved with the PESC EdUnify Task Force. To enroll in the EdUnify Task force, contact Michael Sessa, PESC President and CEO, at: michael.sessa@pesc.org.

For an advance preview of EdUnify, see the EdUnify demonstration environment and on-demand Flash demos at https://demo.edunify.pesc.org. EdUnify is based on the highly successful BioCatalogue web service registry for life sciences.

About PESC

Established in 1997 at the National Center for Higher Education and located in Washington, D.C., the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) is a 501(c)(3)non-profit, community-based, umbrella association of colleges and universities; college and university systems; professional and commercial organizations; data, software and service providers; non-profit organizations and associations; and state and federal government agencies.

Through open and transparent community participation, PESC enables cost-effective connectivity between data systems to accelerate performance and service, to simplify data access and research, and to improve data quality along the higher education lifecycle. PESC envisions national and international interoperability, that is a trustworthy, inter-connected environment built by and between communities of interest in which data flows seamlessly from one system to another and throughout the entire eco-system when and where needed without compatibility barriers but in a safe, secure, reliable, and efficient manner. For more information about PESC, visit: www.pesc.org.

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