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PESC Best Practice Competition Winners Announced

The Board of Directors of the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) is very pleased to announce California Statewide Electronic Exchange Program and the University System of Georgia Board of Regents' Implementation of High School and Postsecondary XML Transcripts as Winners of PESC's 2008 Best Practices Competition!

PESC's Board Review Committee was very pleased with both submissions and found that both submissions are worthy of a first place distinction and award. The Board Review Committee also found the Campus-Based Authentication for Meteor submission valuable as well and awarded it First Runner-Up.

All winning submissions will be posted on the PESC website shortly and arrangements are being made for submitters to present their winning submissions on Monday April 6, 2009 during the 6th Annual Conference on Technology & Standards being held in Washington, D.C. April 5 - 7, 2009.

PESC thanks all submitters for researching and for providing valuable information and services to the education community, and congratulates all winners on a job well done!

PESC Board of Directors Elections

Please be advised that nominations for the PESC Board of Directors are now OPEN. Representatives from MEMBER organizations (with dues paid current) are eligible to serve on the Board of Directors. The term of service is two years and runs July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2011. As terms of service are staggered on the Board of Directors, elections will be for six (6) seats (total number of seats is 12).

Nominations should be made via the Board Nomination Form located at http://www.pesc.org/interior.php?page_id=93 and submitted to Michael Sessa at Michael.Sessa@PESC.org. Duties of Board members are outlined in the Manual of Roles and Responsibilities also located on the same web page.

Elections will be held during PESC's 11 Annual Membership Meeting scheduled

See Elections, Page 5
# 6th Annual Conference on Technology & Standards

Highlighting our general sessions for the 6th Annual Conference on Technology & Standards:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time/Date</th>
<th>Sunday April 5, 2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1:00pm – 5:00pm | Pre-Conference Workshop 1:  
**Addressing Campus IT Security Challenges: A Standards-Based Approach**  
Speaker: Charlie Leonhardt  
Principal Technology, Georgetown University |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time/Date</th>
<th>Monday April 6, 2009</th>
<th>Tuesday April 7, 2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30am – 8:30am</td>
<td>Registration &amp; Continental Breakfast</td>
<td>Registration &amp; Continental Breakfast</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 8:15am – 8:30am | Welcome, Opening Remarks, & Awards  
**Speaker:** Michael Sessa  
Executive Director, PESC |
| 8:30am – 9:30am | **General Session:**  
**Emergence of State PK20 Councils**  
**Speaker:** Hans L’Orange  
VP and Director of SHEEO/NCES Network, SHEEO  
**PK20 Standards-Setting for Education**  
**Speakers:** Dr. Larry Fruth  
Executive Director, SIFA  
**Michael Sessa**  
Executive Director, PESC |
| 9:30am – 9:45am | Break                |
| 9:45am – 10:45am| **General Session:**  
**Mobile Data: Challenge of a New Paradigm**  
**Speaker:** David Moldoff  
Founder and CEO, AcademyOne, Inc.  
**Breaking the Deadlock: Unifying Our Federal Student Loan Programs**  
**Speaker:** Paul Combe  
President and CEO, American Student Assistance |
| 10:45am – 11:00am| Break                |
| 11:00am – 12:00pm| **General Session:**  
**RS3G: European Standards Initiative Supporting the Bologna Process**  
**Speaker:** Manuel Dietz  
Founder, unisolution and Steering Committee, RS3G  
**The Right Data to the Right People at the Right Time**  
**Speaker:** Aimee Guidera  
Executive Director, Data Quality Campaign |

This conference includes the full support and participation of the Data Quality Campaign (DQC), the Schools Interoperability Framework Association (SIFA), and the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA); and the generous sponsorship of AcademyOne, Inc. and USA Funds. Members and/or Affiliates from NCHELP, PESC, and SHEEO are eligible for the discounted registration rate of $350. The non-Membership rate is $600.

**WHERE**  
Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill  
400 New Jersey Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20001  
$209/night for single and double rooms  
Cutoff for Group Rate: March 5, 2009  
Group Name: “PESC”

**ATTIRE**  
Business Casual

**REGISTRATION**  
$350 for Members/Affiliates of NCHELP, PESC, and SHEEO  
$600 for Non-Members  
www.PESC.org

**SPONSORS**  
AcademyOne, Inc and USA Funds
6th Annual Conference on Technology & Standards

“Maximizing Performance Across the Education Lifecycle”
Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill
April 6 – 7, 2009

Members and Non-Members Welcome ~ Dress Code is Business Casual
www.PESC.org

What some have said about past conferences.

“All the sessions I attended were presented well and very informative.”
“What a terrific conference, again.”
“...the most interesting and useful conference I have ever attended.”

Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill
400 New Jersey Ave NW ~ Washington, D.C. 20001 ~ 202-737-1234
Group Name: PESC ~ Group Rate: $209 single/double
Hotel Cut-Off: March 5, 2009
Spring 2009 Summit Program Now Posted!

As a result of difficult economic times and the pressure it puts on all organizations, PESC is holding its Spring 2009 Summit immediately following the 6th Annual Conference on Technology & Standards thereby eliminating one in-person meeting for 2009 and allowing members to travel once for multiple purposes.

Member Summits include meetings of all active development workgroups, boards, task forces, and the PESC Board of Directors. While most work done throughout the year is conducted via conference call, Summits are working meetings which maximize the benefits of meeting in-person. In addition to being exposed to a number of development efforts and ideas, attendees can network with fellow colleagues also tackling the challenges of data communications and implementation. This year PESC’s 11th Annual Membership meeting will also take place during the Summit. Regular updates will be provided by respective chairs and elections for the PESC Board of Directors will be held.

WHEN
• Pre-Conference Workshops: Sunday, April 5, 2009, 1:00pm-5:00pm

Tuesday, April 7, 2009

1:30pm - 3:15pm Concurrent Sessions
- Education Record User Group
- Academic Progress Workgroup
- Technical Advisory Board (TAB)

3:15pm Break

3:30pm - 5:15pm Concurrent Sessions
- Education Record User Group
- Course Inventory Workgroup
- Change Control Board (CCB)

5:30pm - 6:30pm 11th Annual PESC Membership Meeting

11th Annual PESC Membership Meeting

Please be advised that PESC’s 11th Annual Membership Meeting will take place on Tuesday April 7, 2009 from 5:30pm - 6:30pm EDT at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill during the Spring 2009 PESC Member Summit. Membership meetings are open to all PESC Members and Affiliates, and with prior notification, other interested parties. Registration for the Summit is not required in order to attend the Membership Meeting.
Wednesday, April 8, 2009

8:30am - 10:15am  Concurrent Sessions
- PDF Transcript Workgroup
- Board of Directors
- Functional Acknowledgement (of Transcript) Workgroup

10:15am  Break

10:30am - 12:00pm  Concurrent Sessions
- PDF Transcript Workgroup
- Steering Committee of the Standards Forum for Education
- EA2 Task Force

12:00pm - 1:30pm  Lunch on your own

1:30pm - 3:00pm  General Session
- Seal of Approval

3:00pm  Break

3:15pm - 4:30pm  General Session
- IgNite XML
- Student Lifecycle

4:30pm  Adjourn

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Elections, from Page 1

for Tuesday April 7, 2009 from 5:30pm - 6:30pm EDT at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill (400 New Jersey Ave NW, Washington DC, 20001). Membership meetings are open to all PESC Members and Affiliates and with prior notification, other interested parties.

The schedule for elections is as follows:
- Thursday February 25, 2009 - Nominations open
- Wednesday March 18, 2009 - Nominations closed
- Friday March 20, 2009 - Proxy Ballots issued
- Wednesday April 1, 2009 - If not attending the membership meeting in person, this is the date by which proxy ballots must be received in PESC's offices
- Tuesday April 7, 2009 - Elections held, 5:30pm EDT

NOTE: If attending the 11th Annual Membership Meeting in person, proxy ballots can still be submitted and can then either be replaced with an in-person vote on Tuesday April 7, 2009 or remain as the official vote. We recommend that every member organization submit a proxy ballot so that if any last minute emergencies occur (weather, delays, etc.), an official ballot is still on file for that member organization.
Spring 2009
PESC Member Summit

Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill
April 7 – 8, 2009

Members and Non-Members Welcome ~ Dress Code is Business Casual
www.PESC.org

Draft Program (begins at 1:30pm on Tuesday April 7, 2008)

- Academic Progress Workgroup
- Board of Directors
- Change Control Board (CCB)
- Course Inventory
- EA2 Task Force
- Education Record User Group
- Functional Acknowledgement Workgroup
- PDF Transcript Workgroup
- Seal of Approval Group
- Steering Committee of the Standards Forum for Education
- Technical Advisory Board (TAB)

Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill
400 New Jersey Ave NW ~ Washington, D.C. 20001 ~ 202-737-1234
Group Name: PESC ~ Group Rate: $209 single/double
Hotel Cut-Off: March 5, 2009

ORACLE

NATIONAL STUDENT CLEARINGHOUSE

xap
Updates to Codes in EDI Implementation Guides

The AACRAO SPEEDE Committee has prepared updates to two EDI Implementation Guides that are posted on the PESC web site. These recommendations were then approved by the new PESC Education Record User Group.

First, the Guide for EDI TS189 Application for Admission was revised to allow for the transmission of the new race and ethnicity codes now being mandated by the US Department of Education’s National Center for Education Statistics. This updated guide may be found at http://www.pesc.org/library/docs/standards/edi%20implementation%20guides/TS189%20Version%204020%20rev%202009%2002%2025.pdf.

Next, the Appendix B to the Guide for EDI TS130 Student Transcript was updated to include new countries added to the ISO 3166-1 2 digit Country Codes list. This updated guide may be found at: http://www.pesc.org/library/docs/standards/edi%20implementation%20guides/130%20APP%20B%20Country%20Codes%20Revised%202009%2002%2025.pdf.

If you have any questions about either of the two documents, feel free to contact me or anyone on the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee.

John T. "Tom" Stewart
Retired College Registrar
Miami Dade College (FL)
Member, AACRAO SPEEDE Committee
Email: stewartj@aol.com

FSA: Updated 2009-2010 EDE Technical Reference Released


The EDE Technical Reference provides programmer specifications, record layouts, and other detailed information for schools or other organizations that need to design software systems to interface with the U.S. Department of Education’s application processing system.

The February 2009 update includes revisions to field numbers 044 and 045 in the Correction Data Entry Specifications table in the Processing Codes section. The field name and valid content for these field has been updated. For more information, consult the tracking log of changes posted with the reference.

In addition to its current availability on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site, the reference will also be available in the next several days from the Federal Student Aid Download (FSAdownload) Web site, located at https://www.fsadownload.ed.gov.

If you have any questions, contact CPS/SAIG Technical Support at 800/330-5947 (TDD/TTY 800/511-5806) or by e-mail at CPSSAIG@ed.gov.

New Members

“Kaplan University is dedicated to providing innovative postsecondary education with a student-centered service and support approach. With a trend of ever-accelerating student mobility and transfer between institutions of higher learning within and outside of state and national borders, Kaplan University considers PESC’s mission of standardized data exchange to facilitate collaboration across educational communities to be a key element in defining higher education in the 21st century. We are pleased to join this association and look forward to taking part in this effort to improve the educational experience for students.”

- Afshin Mikaili, Ph.D., MBA; Director of PLA Center;
Kaplan University
FSA: Upcoming Change to Login Process for the FAA Access to CPS Online and SAIG Enrollment Web Sites

Upcoming changes to the login process for the FAA Access to CPS Online and Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) Enrollment Web sites remove the need for users to provide personally identifiable information to log in to these Web sites. Instead, a Federal Student Aid User ID (FSA User ID) and password will be used to authenticate a user’s identity and to log in to both Web sites. The FSA User ID and password will replace identifiers that are currently used to log in, such as Social Security Number (SSN) and date of birth (DOB).

This change is to address security concerns raised by requiring personally identifiable information to log in to Federal Student Aid Web sites. It is also a step toward our goal of providing a "single sign-on" process for users of multiple systems associated with Federal Student Aid. The goal is to require users to log in just once to access our different systems, rather than multiple times using various authentication methods.

In this announcement, we provide the following important information related to the implementation of this new process:

- What Is Changing
- What Is Not Changing
- Schedule For Implementation
- When Enrollment Begins-Obtaining an FSA User ID and Password
- How To Prepare For the New Process
- Contact Information

Thank you in advance for your assistance with the implementation of this new process.

What Is Changing
The primary change is that FAA Access users and SAIG Destination Point Administrators (DPAs) will no longer provide personally identifiable information, such as an SSN, DOB, last name, and (for FAA Access to CPS Online) a PIN, to log in and access the FAA Access to CPS Online and the SAIG Enrollment Web sites. Instead, each user will be issued a new FSA User ID and will establish a password.

Note for EExpress Users: The link to FAA Access to CPS Online will remain in the software. However, when using the link EExpress users will encounter the new login process and will use the FSA User ID and password to log in to FAA Access to CPS Online. To implement this change, EExpress for both the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 award years will be updated in a future release. Additional information will be provided in forthcoming communications.

There are two additional changes related to the new authentication process. First, an FSA User ID enrollment module will be added to the SAIG Enrollment Web site. This new module will offer a streamlined method to register for a new FSA User ID and create a password.

Second, the Web address (or URL) for FAA Access to CPS Online will change. When the new URL has been finalized, we will notify all users. The impact of this change will be minimal, as the current URL will continue to function for an indefinite period of time.

What Is Not Changing
Access to other Federal Student Aid Web sites such as Common Origination and Disbursement (COD), National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) Professional Access, or eCampus-Based (eCB) will not be affected by this change. In addition, there will be no change to the current process for sending and receiving data through the SAIG.

Note for eCB and eCDR Appeals Users: The FSA User ID and password that are currently used for the eCB and eCohort Default Rate (eCDR) Appeals Web sites will be used to access the FAA Access to CPS Online and the SAIG Enrollment Web sites, when the authentication change to those sites is complete. Individuals that currently have an FSA User ID and password for use on the eCB and eCDR Appeals Web sites will not need to take any action.

See Login, Page 10
**Login, from Page 9**

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**Schedule For Implementation**
In early April 2009 we plan to begin the online FSA User ID enrollment process for all participants that use the FAA Access to CPS Online and the SAIG Enrollment Web sites. We plan to implement the change to the log in process for the two Web sites in mid-May 2009.

After the mid-May 2009 implementation is complete, an FSA User ID and password must be used to access the FAA Access to CPS Online and the SAIG Enrollment Web sites.

**When Enrollment Begins-Obtaining an FSA User ID and Password**
All current users of the FAA Access to CPS Online Web site (including those who access the site through EDExpress) and the SAIG Enrollment Web site will need to obtain an FSA User ID. Users will receive an e-mail message containing a link to the online enrollment system. During the enrollment process the user will select and respond to several challenge questions and establish a password. Once enrollment is complete, the user will be e-mailed his or her FSA User ID.

Reminder: As stated above, the FSA User ID and password that are currently used for the eCB and eCDR Appeals Web sites can be used to access the FAA Access to CPS Online and the SAIG Enrollment Web sites, when the authentication change to those sites is complete.

Individuals that currently have an FSA User ID and password for use on the eCB and eCDR Appeals Web sites will not need to take any action.

Detailed instructions for how to obtain an FSA User ID and password will be communicated in the coming weeks. Watch the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site for further details.

**How To Prepare For the New Process**
To ensure we have the necessary information to communicate with users in the coming months, Primary DPAs (PDPAs) should verify the SAIG Enrollment contact information for the organization’s users, particularly e-mail addresses. If you have questions about how to verify this information, contact CPS/SAIG Technical Support. See the "Contact Information" section below.

In addition, the PDPA must also complete active confirmation for the organization’s assigned TG numbers and FAA Access users. The active confirmation process was initiated this winter and eighty-four percent of TG numbers and FAA Access users have been confirmed. The accounts that remain unconfirmed risk losing access to the FAA Access to CPS Online and the SAIG Enrollment Web sites when the FSA User ID authentication process is implemented. Only accounts that have been confirmed by the PDPA will be eligible to enroll for an FSA User ID.

For instructions on how to perform active confirmation of your organization’s assigned TG numbers and FAA Access users, see the electronic announcement posted on October 17, 2008.

**Contact Information**
Further information will be provided in the near future on the IFAP Web site. If you have questions, contact CPS/SAIG Technical Support at 800/330-5947 (TDD/TTY 800/511-5806) or by e-mail at CPSSAIG@ed.gov.

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**EDI Data Exchange Statistics**
**February 2009 - UT Austin Server**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Transcript</strong></td>
<td>70,282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Response</strong></td>
<td>10,498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Admission Application</strong></td>
<td>76,173</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Test Score</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Transcript Request</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Acknowledgement</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Functional Acknowledgment</strong></td>
<td>23,931</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total transaction sets</strong></td>
<td>274,140</td>
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FAFSA Stats 2005-2008

**FAFSA Electronic vs. Paper Processing**

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<th>FY2005</th>
<th>FY2006</th>
<th>FY2007</th>
<th>FY2008</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electronic</td>
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<td>10,124,428</td>
<td>10,230,632</td>
<td>14,055,354</td>
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<td>Paper</td>
<td>2,149,900</td>
<td>1,229,495</td>
<td>610,714</td>
<td>560,643</td>
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**FAFSA Electronic Processing Dep vs Ind**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>FY2005</th>
<th>FY2006</th>
<th>FY2007</th>
<th>FY2008</th>
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<td>4,394,604</td>
<td>6,312,799</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>5,793,416</td>
<td>6,004,548</td>
<td>5,836,028</td>
<td>7,742,555</td>
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**Total FAFSAs Processed**

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<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>FY2005</th>
<th>FY2006</th>
<th>FY2007</th>
<th>FY2008</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Apps</td>
<td>11,793,501</td>
<td>11,353,923</td>
<td>10,841,346</td>
<td>14,615,997</td>
</tr>
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</table>
UT Austin Server Statistics 2005-2008

Postsecondary Transcripts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Postsecondary Transcripts 2008</th>
<th>Postsecondary Transcripts 2007</th>
<th>Postsecondary Transcripts 2006</th>
<th>Postsecondary Transcripts 2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>85,059</td>
<td>76,411</td>
<td>81,373</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>53,399</td>
<td>44,635</td>
<td>35,725</td>
<td>32,634</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>51,966</td>
<td>42,050</td>
<td>36,902</td>
<td>32,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>58,264</td>
<td>46,216</td>
<td>44,516</td>
<td>39,792</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>95,248</td>
<td>89,632</td>
<td>84,665</td>
<td>71,493</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>102,280</td>
<td>73,151</td>
<td>66,754</td>
<td>58,547</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>61,063</td>
<td>47,741</td>
<td>51,889</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
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<td>73,880</td>
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<tr>
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<td>51,382</td>
<td>45,433</td>
<td>43,333</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
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<td>64,465</td>
<td>44,505</td>
<td>36,207</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>74,453</td>
<td>55,599</td>
<td>45,654</td>
<td>42,242</td>
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<td>December</td>
<td>71,851</td>
<td>61,836</td>
<td>50,961</td>
<td>43,814</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>858,174</td>
<td>693,210</td>
<td>660,157</td>
<td>555,652</td>
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</table>

08 over 07 07 over 06 06 over 05
24% 5% 19%
08 over 06 07 over 05
30% 25%
08 over 05 54%
## Admission Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Admission Applications 2008</th>
<th>Admission Applications 2007</th>
<th>Admission Applications 2006</th>
<th>Admission Applications 2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>January</td>
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<td>102,281</td>
<td>82,805</td>
<td>60,316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>70,353</td>
<td>54,626</td>
<td>43,973</td>
<td>34,888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>62,282</td>
<td>52,050</td>
<td>40,110</td>
<td>31,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>73,201</td>
<td>58,403</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
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<td>52,311</td>
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<tr>
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<td>42,624</td>
<td>34,921</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>43,782</td>
<td>37,115</td>
<td>16,171</td>
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<td>August</td>
<td>39,159</td>
<td>33,068</td>
<td>13,716</td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>45,109</td>
<td>33,068</td>
<td>24,935</td>
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<td>October</td>
<td>97,453</td>
<td>82,846</td>
<td>54,329</td>
<td>38,198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>133,259</td>
<td>102,073</td>
<td>88,920</td>
<td>66,391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>128,654</td>
<td>110,170</td>
<td>67,584</td>
<td>50,769</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>908,110</td>
<td>753,540</td>
<td>510,021</td>
<td>389,295</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

08 over 07 07 over 06 06 over 05
21% 48% 31%
08 over 06 07 over 05
78% 94%
08 over 05
133%

## Admission Applications 2005-2008

![Graph showing Admission Applications 2005-2008](chart.png)
## Test Score Reports

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Test Score Reports 2008</th>
<th>Test Score Reports 2007</th>
<th>Test Score Reports 2006</th>
<th>Test Score Reports 2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>16,741</td>
<td>19,723</td>
<td>18,022</td>
<td>16,892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>15,697</td>
<td>14,556</td>
<td>15,961</td>
<td>17,307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>10,950</td>
<td>10,009</td>
<td>4,423</td>
<td>4,302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>2,794</td>
<td>8,658</td>
<td>12,794</td>
<td>17,597</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>14,021</td>
<td>13,868</td>
<td>2,574</td>
<td>13,275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>22,479</td>
<td>12,465</td>
<td>25,196</td>
<td>14,659</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>3,644</td>
<td>3,259</td>
<td>3,879</td>
<td>3,464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>3,122</td>
<td>5,635</td>
<td>3,403</td>
<td>4,258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>4,036</td>
<td>5,635</td>
<td>5,520</td>
<td>6,679</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>21,562</td>
<td>27,993</td>
<td>7,462</td>
<td>28,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>26,103</td>
<td>32,956</td>
<td>46,548</td>
<td>26,412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>35,610</td>
<td>34,256</td>
<td>33,557</td>
<td>38,517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>176,767</strong></td>
<td><strong>189,013</strong></td>
<td><strong>179,339</strong></td>
<td><strong>191,992</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Change Rates

- 08 over 07: -6%
- 07 over 06: 5%
- 06 over 05: -7%
- 08 over 06: -1%
- 07 over 05: -2%
- 08 over 05: -8%

## Test Score Reports 2005-2008

![Test Score Reports Graph 2005-2008](image)
### All Other Transactions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Total 2008</th>
<th>Total 2007</th>
<th>Total 2006</th>
<th>Total 2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>356,603</td>
<td>312,924</td>
<td>289,393</td>
<td>216,019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>238,888</td>
<td>185,665</td>
<td>152,222</td>
<td>130,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>216,470</td>
<td>178,566</td>
<td>140,278</td>
<td>140,158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>217,471</td>
<td>172,165</td>
<td>153,737</td>
<td>141,311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>289,270</td>
<td>260,342</td>
<td>215,862</td>
<td>186,043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>302,390</td>
<td>206,611</td>
<td>198,994</td>
<td>162,809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>190,082</td>
<td>153,245</td>
<td>145,142</td>
<td>107,549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>210,749</td>
<td>156,529</td>
<td>186,907</td>
<td>149,737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>180,737</td>
<td>166,520</td>
<td>144,450</td>
<td>108,157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>349,580</td>
<td>299,130</td>
<td>199,875</td>
<td>166,923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>431,847</td>
<td>294,439</td>
<td>259,599</td>
<td>202,113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>381,681</td>
<td>314,558</td>
<td>226,557</td>
<td>203,514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>3,374,768</td>
<td>2,690,703</td>
<td>2,303,036</td>
<td>1,914,683</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 08 over 07: 25%
- 07 over 06: 17%
- 06 over 05: 20%
- 08 over 06: 47%
- 07 over 05: 41%
- 08 over 05: 76%

### All Transactions 2005-2008

![Graph showing transactions from 2005 to 2008](image-url)
Summary of Meetings and Conference Calls of the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee
Months of January and February 2009

This is an update for interested members of the AACRAO membership about the ongoing activities of the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee. SPEEDE is a committee that is more active year round than many of the other AACRAO standing committees. The SPEEDE committee reports to the AACRAO Vice President for Information Technology (Group VI), Jeff von Munkwitz-Smith.

Face to Face Meetings Held: None

AACRAO SPEEDE Committee conference calls held (with number of participants):
1/8/09 (7), 1/15/09 (8), 1/22/09 (8), 1/29/09 (6), 2/5/09 (8), 2/12/09 (7), 2/19/09 (6) and 2/26/09 (8). The average number of participants per call was 7.

Activities related to PESC: AACRAO is a founding member of, and an active supporter and participant in the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council. PESC is the standards setting organization for the electronic exchange of student records in higher education in North America.

- Rick Skeel represents AACRAO on the PESC Board of Directors.
- Clare Smith-Larson is now Chair of the PESC Steering Committee.
- Tuan Anh Do and Tom Stewart serve on the Change Control Board.
- Tuan Anh Do also serves on the Technical Advisory Board.

And, much of the real work of PESC is accomplished in workgroups.

PESC Standards and Workgroups of Interest to AACRAO Members Include:

XML College Transcript - PESC approved this schema as a standard in May 2004. PESC approved a new version (1.1.0) of the schema in October 2007. The three .xsd files to view the schema with a reader such as Altova Corporation’s XMLSpy, and Version 1.1.1 of the Implementation Guide are posted on the PESC web site at http://www.pesc.org/interior.php?page_id=164. It is recommended that all users update to Version 1.1.0 of the schema. All users who have updated to the latest version can still accept all documents created with Version 1.0.0. All users of Version 1.0.0 can also receive documents created in Version 1.1.0 provided that no data were included that use the new data elements, or new values of old data elements.

XML High School Transcript - The XML High School Transcript was approved as a PESC standard in June 2006. The Implementation Guide Version 1.0.2 in PDF format and the three files to needed to view the schema (Version 1.0.0) are available on the PESC web site at http://www.pesc.org/interior.php?page_id=163.
XML Application for Admission - This workgroup held weekly conference calls for about two years. The workgroup is chaired by Adriana Farella, from The Catholic University of America, and Tom Stewart of the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee assists her. Notes from the workgroup conference calls and the latest draft of the Implementation Guide are available on the PESC web site at http://www.pesc.org/interior.php?page_id=136. Clare Smith-Larson and Robin Greene are other AACRAO SPEEDE members who actively participated in this workgroup.

Adriana presented the schema for approval of the PESC Change Control Board and it was approved. The next step is posting the schema with the draft Implementation Guide on the PESC web site for a 30 day review and comment period of the higher education community. It is anticipated that this will now occur in March of 2009.

XML Education Test Score Reporting - Information on this PESC workgroup is located on the web site at http://www.pesc.org/interior.php?page_id=132. It is developing the PESC XML standard that serves essentially the same purpose as the EDI Transaction Set 138 so that education test scores can be exchanged electronically. Tuan Anh Do, Clare Smith-Larson and Tom Stewart of the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee are active participants on this workgroup. Michael Morris from ACT, Incorporated presented the schema for approval of the PESC Change Control Board and it was approved. The next step is posting it to the PESC web site for a 30 day comment period. It is anticipated that this will be done in March or April 2009.


Academic Record Batch Submittal: Since each XML instance document is a stand-alone document for transmission, several schools and agencies had asked for some way to bundle multiple XML documents in the same manner that multiple EDI documents were bundled inside the ISA/IEA envelope.

This schema became a PESC XML Standard in July 2007 and information about this Standard may be viewed on the PESC web site at http://www.pesc.org/interior.php?page_id=185.

XML Transcript Request and Response: The XML schemas for the Request for a Student Transcript and also for the Response to that Request for a Student Transcript were approved in October 2007 as PESC standards.

An updated version of the Implementation Guide (Version 1.0.1) has been prepared for the XML Request for a Student Transcript. No changes were made to the schema, but several recommendations were modified to allow for the requestor to specify that the transcript be released after a specified future date, or after a specified future event has

**Standardization of PDF Education Documents:** A new workgroup has been formed to deal with the issue of standardization of PDF documents and their electronic transmission. Armando Rodríguez from Xap Corporation and Jim Bouse of the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee co-chair this new group. It now holds regular conference calls and welcomes the participation of anyone whose school or company is a member of PESC.

**XML Functional Acknowledgment of XML Instance Documents:** Another new workgroup was formed to create the XML equivalent of the EDI TS 997. Rob Moore from the National Transcript Center and Monterey Sims from the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee are the co-chairs of this workgroup. It held regular conference calls and is almost ready to present the schema to the PESC Change Control Board for approval.

**Academic Progress (formerly Degree Audit):** Clare Smith-Larson from the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee has volunteered to co-chair this newly activated group which has its first conference call scheduled for March 6 and new participants are welcome.

**New User Group for Approved XML and EDI Standards:** PESC formed a new user group (Education Record User Group) that will deal with maintenance of all of the approved XML schemas in the student records area, as well as all of the ANSI ASC X12 EDI Standards for the admissions and student records area. In the future, as they are approved, the User Group will also consider modifications to the Application for Admission, Course Catalog and Education Test Score Reporting schemas, as well.

Tuan Anh Do of the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee is a co-chair of the User Group. The other co-chair is Dr. Barbara Clements from the National Transcript Center. All members of the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee plan to be active with this new group and other participants whose schools or companies are members of PESC are welcome.

Among the items being discussed by the User Group are

- Adding regional accreditation information on the XML Student Transcript;
- Clarification in the documentation about the use of the feature to ask for delay of the release (when requesting an XML Transcript) until a degree or grades are posted;
January and February 2009 Report from AACRAO SPEEDE Committee

c. The addition of a more complete summary, of credits required and completed by curriculum area for a diploma, on an XML High School Transcript;

d. The addition of a new optional data element to specify a student’s high school program of study in the XML High School Transcript;

e. The addition of an optional User Defined Extension in the Transmission Data area of XML schemas.

f. A minor modification to the XML Request for a Student Transcript to allow a sender of the request to indicate that an earlier request has been canceled. This would be an additional enumerated value of “Cancel” to the simple data element “DocumentTypeCode”.

It now holds conference calls on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 2 pm Eastern.

New AACRAO Publication on Electronic Exchanges of Student Records (EDX): Under the leadership of Clare Smith-Larson, the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee developed a new publication for AACRAO. It is now available for purchase from AACRAO. It was released at the end of 2008.

Current Activities of the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee:

AACRAO Consulting: The SPEEDE Committee has been holding discussions with the AACRAO Consulting Service and plans to make the expertise of the committee available to the Service in the areas of electronic student records exchange.

Electronic Requests for Student Transcripts: Angela Debose, University Registrar at the University of South Florida, asked the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee to explore providing a data base of schools that will honor electronic requests for student transcripts. ANSI ASC X12 TS146 and the PESC XML Request for Student Transcripts provide the means to process these requests, but there is no easy and reliable way to know which schools will return a transcript based on that request.

The AACRAO SPEEDE Committee has agreed to explore this idea and Amy Berg and Monterey Sims from the University of Phoenix are beginning a project to gather the data. They plan to present the results of the survey at the AACRAO Technology Conference in Tucson in July. The Texas SPEEDE Internet Server is exploring a modification of its participant table to specify those schools that will honor electronic transcript requests from other schools.
January and February 2009 Report from AACRAO SPEEDE Committee

**New NCES Race and Ethnicity Codes:** The SPEEDE Committee has recommended the use of the NTE Segment in ANSI ASC X12 TS189 to include the ethnicity and the multiple race codes. This was approved by the PESC Education Record User Group, and a new version of the EDI TS189 Implementation Guides has been posted to the PESC web site.

**New Country Codes for TS130 Implementation Guide:** Appendix B of the Implementation Guide has been updated with new country codes and the revised Appendix has been posted to the PESC web site.
**University of Texas at Austin SPEEDE Internet Server:** Shelby Stanfield, University Registrar at UT Austin has provided us with the following information about the use of the Server as of the end of February 2009:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Last Year</th>
<th>This Year</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of TS130 Transcripts for February</td>
<td>53,399</td>
<td>70,282</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of TS130 Transcripts for past 12 months</td>
<td>737,561</td>
<td>884,539</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of TS131 Transcript Acknowledgments for February</td>
<td>47,773</td>
<td>53,496</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of TS131 Transcript Acknowledgments for past 12 months</td>
<td>598,684</td>
<td>706,898</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of TS189 Applications for Admission for February</td>
<td>70,383</td>
<td>76,173</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of TS189 Applications for Admission for past 12 months</td>
<td>784,446</td>
<td>926,686</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Total Transactions for February **</td>
<td>238,888</td>
<td>274,140</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Total Transactions for past 12 months **</td>
<td>2,827,644</td>
<td>3,437,776</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of TS130 Sending Schools in February ***</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Number of TS130 Sending Schools per month for past 12 months ***</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>-2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of TS130 Receiving Schools in February ***</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>13%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Number of TS130 Receiving Schools per month for past 12 months ***</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** Total Transactions include TS130 Transcripts, TS131 Acknowledgments, TS997 Functional Acknowledgments, TS 189 Applications for Admission, and TS138 Test Scores.

*** In addition to this number of schools, there are other entities that distribute transcripts through the Server, such as Florida K-12, Florida Postsecondary, Texas Education Agency, Triand, and the National Transcript Center.
January and February 2009 Report from AACRAO SPEEDE Committee

The schools or other entities that sent the most TS130 transcripts through the UT Austin SPEEDE Server in February were Florida Public High Schools (12,527), Florida Public Postsecondary Schools (7,112), North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (4,621) facilitated via the College Foundation of North Carolina’s statewide college access web portal, XAP on behalf of CCCTran in California (3,989), National Transcript Center on behalf of the Texas Education Agency (3,859), and Triand on behalf of Public High Schools in Arkansas (2,716).

Schools in sixteen US states and one Canadian province sent TS130 transcripts through the Server in February.

In addition, 135 PESC XML College Transcripts were exchanged among 10 postsecondary schools in Georgia through the Texas SPEEDE Server in February.

A new trend of increased volume of EDI high school transcripts continued in early 2009. The state of Florida continues to lead the nation as virtually 100% of Florida public high schools transmit EDI transcripts. However, the state of North Carolina is now showing impressive volumes of EDI high school transcripts.

In addition, the Texas Education Agency has partnered with the National Transcript Center and has mandated the sending of electronic high school transcripts, and the numbers are now impressive. The state has also mandated that all public postsecondary schools have the ability to accept them. A similar mandate in Arkansas has resulted in large numbers of EDI High School Transcripts being exchanged there.

State and Province Electronic Transmission Initiatives and Mandates: The SPEEDE Committee recently updated a spreadsheet of all the activities, mandates and initiatives of which we are aware in each US State and Canadian Province. We encourage you to review the spreadsheet to insure it is up to date for your state or province. Please send updates and corrections to stewartj@aol.com. It is now posted on the SPEEDE page on the AACRAO web site at http://www.aacrao.org/speede/statestat.cfm.
January and February 2009 Report from AACRAO SPEEDE Committee

Future Meetings: The following are future events at which the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee normally participates:

PESC Annual Conference on Standards and Workgroup Meetings April 6-8, 2009: This Monday through Wednesday meeting is scheduled for the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. Most of the active PESC workgroups and the new PESC Education Record User Group will also meet.

AACRAO Annual Meeting in Chicago April 13-16, 2009 (Monday through Thursday) at McCormick Place West. All meetings will be held at the McCormick Conference Center. The conference hotel is the Hilton on South Michigan Avenue. The AACRAO SPEEDE committee plans to meet on Monday afternoon during the annual meeting.

AACRAO Technology Conference in Tucson, AZ July 19-21, 2009: This Sunday through Tuesday conference will be held at the JW Marriott Starr Pass Tucson Resort & Spa.
## January and February 2009 Report from AACRAO SPEEDE Committee

### AACRAO SPEEDE Committee Members for 2008-2009:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position/Institution</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barry Billing, Chair</td>
<td>Associate Registrar, Conestoga College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning (Ontario), and representative to the AACRAO SPEEDE committee from the Association of Registrars of the Universities and Colleges of Canada (ARUCC)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bbilling@conestogac.on.ca">bbilling@conestogac.on.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James M. “Jim” Bouse</td>
<td>Associate Registrar for Technology, University of Oregon</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jbouse@uoregon.edu">jbouse@uoregon.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuan Anh Do, Vice-Chair</td>
<td>Assistant Director, Systems Support Group, Undergraduate Admissions, San Francisco State University (CA)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:doey@sfsu.edu">doey@sfsu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robin S. Greene</td>
<td>Senior Associate Director of Technology and Internet Services, College Foundation of North Carolina, University of North Carolina General Administration</td>
<td><a href="mailto:greeners@northcarolina.edu">greeners@northcarolina.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monterey E. Sims</td>
<td>Director of Operations/Intake, University of Phoenix (AZ)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:monterey.sims@phoenix.edu">monterey.sims@phoenix.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick Skeel</td>
<td>Director of Academic Records, University of Oklahoma</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rskeel@ou.edu">rskeel@ou.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clare Smith-Larson</td>
<td>SPEEDE/Project EASIER Coordinator, Iowa State University</td>
<td><a href="mailto:csmith@iastate.edu">csmith@iastate.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John T. “Tom” Stewart</td>
<td>Retired College Registrar, Miami Dade College (FL)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:stewartj@aol.com">stewartj@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Tashjian</td>
<td>Associate Director, Student Information Systems, Office of the Registrar, University of Texas at Austin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tim.tashjian@austin.utexas.edu">tim.tashjian@austin.utexas.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

And that's the update for the past two months from the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee.
IN THIS UPDATE:

1. New LETSI Website
2. New LETSI Blog
3. SCORM 2.0 Project Final Report
4. Name SCORM’s Successor
5. Webinar Series Announced

NEW LETSI WEBSITE
We have recently launched a new public website for LETSI at www.lets.org. All participants must create a new account on this website (free). Our old wiki is still in use at wiki.lets.org, and much of the working group activity is still being posted there as well. The new website offers several new features, enhancements, and opportunities for interacting with other LETSI registered users. Please visit today and register for a free account.

NEW LETSI BLOG
We’ve started a LETSI blog at www.lets.org/blog. Posts so far by Mike Rustic, Aaron Silvers, Ellen Meiselman, and Avron Barr. You can also follow LETSI on Twitter, Facebook, and Join our group on LinkedIn.

SCORM 2.0 PROJECT FINAL REPORT - Assumptions Going Forward
LETIS’s first major undertaking was a public discussion of what to do with SCORM going forward that was called the “SCORM 2.0 Project.” Between July 2008 and January 2009, the effort involved over 250 people and produced 100 white papers, dozens of subsequent online discussion threads, a 3-day Workshop in Pensacola, and the Final Report, which is now available for review at www.lets.org/scorm2.

The events of the last six months have had three major results:

1. The Advanced Distributed Learning initiative has decided that it will continue to develop SCORM 2004, providing a stable basis for the SCORM community.
2. A new approach to achieving interoperability has started to crystallize out of the October Workshop: using agile software techniques and community-sourced software projects to facilitate more rapid and consistent adoption of software standards in a rapidly changing LET systems landscape.
3. Finally, there is a strong need to support interoperability among systems that represent pedagogical, technological and business models different from those supported by LET standards today, including SCORM. Of course, our roots are in the SCORM community and LETSI’s members are invested in SCORM. LETSI is committed to a simple migration path for existing content. Although compatibility with SCORM is very important, a new name is needed to indicate our broader scope.

NAME SCORM’S SUCCESSOR
LETIS has invited the community to participate in naming the project that will produce the new interoperability framework. The to-be-named project will:
Focus on a broad range of LET system interoperability requirements;  
Prioritize technical projects based on community interest level;  
valuate and harmonize technical solutions available from all LET communities  
and related IT areas like Human Resources;  
Assure, to the extent possible, that work products are free of IP constraints  
and can be used with “no strings attached”;  
Support adoption through a community-source software project;  
Continue to identify key issues in learning technology through an open an  
inclusive process that involves teachers, technologists, vendors, and policy  
makers.

Using any of the following words might score extra points: open, interoperability,  
learning, community, platform, free, e.

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**LETSI WEBINAR SERIES**

The LETSI Technical Roadmap Committee is planning a series of webinars to continue  
the discussion of priorities and alternatives. The first webinar will be a public briefing  
about the results of the SCORM 2.0 Project. Subsequent webinars will invite guest  
experts to review technologies and approaches of interest, like DITA, S1000D,  
eFramework, OKI, SIF, ePortfolio, and HR-XML. You can sign up for the first webinar,  
“LETSI’s SCORM 2.0 Project and Beyond,” at [www.letsi.org/webinar](http://www.letsi.org/webinar). The webinar will  
take place March 11 at Noon, Eastern Daylight Time.

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**Participating in LETSI Working Groups**

LETSI’s active Working Groups meet weekly or bi-weekly via teleconference. Current work  
includes making critical decisions about LETSI, SCORM and other reference models:

- The Policies and Procedures Committee will finalize changes to LETSI’s  
  mission statement, establish new membership categories/fees, and decide  
  who gets to vote on issues and officers.
- The Technical Roadmap Committee is made up of Working Groups that are  
  looking into a replacement of Simple Sequencing in SCORM, service-oriented  
  approaches to architectures for eLearning, more general content aggregation  
  models, and the general idea of creating a platform of royalty-free, community-  
  developed software components to support implementation of the  
  specifications.
- The Business Requirements working group is considering what the content  
  creation, distribution, and administration life cycle will look like in the future.
- The Orchestration Working Group investigates and makes recommendations  
  regarding the organization and control of discrete activities within a learning  
  experience.
- The Architecture Working Group oversees the development and maintenance  
  of a uniform architecture for LETSI development efforts.
- The Teaching and Learning Strategies Working Group gathers requirements  
  related to teaching and learning from a large group of practicing instructional  
  designers and educators.
- A new Membership Committee is being formed to promote participation and  
  organize meetings and other benefits for LETSI’s Individual Members.
- The Communications Committee is organizing a 2009 sponsorship drive, as  
  well as future meetings, newsletters, press releases, website changes, etc. A  
  LETSI Annual Meeting is planned for late in 2009.

These groups are open to the public. Everyone with an interest in LET systems  
interoperability is most welcome to participate and contribute. (Only Individual  
Members of LETSI may vote in the Working Groups.) Please contact [info@letsi.org](mailto:info@letsi.org) if  
you are interested in participating.

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LETSI: HR-XML Consortium Seeks Cross-Domain Interoperability
By Jim Farmer | November 19, 2008

This is a guest post by Jim Farmer.

“Learning, education, and HR standards communities have very little to show in terms of cross-domain standards interoperability and convergence despite significant investments over a period of more than a decade.” Chuck Allen, Executive Director of the HR-XML Consortium, made this assessment of standards that cross the boundaries of standards-setting bodies in a “White Paper” submitted to the LETSI SCORM 2.0 Workshop held October 15-17, 2008 in Pensacola, Florida. As learning systems exchange data with various administrative, ERP and human resources systems, standards are needed to avoid expensive continuous redundant software maintenance.

Although Allen didn’t cite historical opportunities, during development of the HR-XML resume specification, the Consortium requested assistance from higher education in recording competencies and the description of academic work such as publications. Higher education did not respond.

In his contribution Allen, as an example, asked for assistance in defining Score as a Type “A numerical record of the marks allotted to individuals in the measurement of abilities, capacity to learn, in the assessment of personality, or in other measurable characteristics (e.g., credit worthiness).” Allen wrote: “‘Score’ is a data type used in at least a dozen contexts within the HR-XML Library. Organizations such as the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC.org), among other learning and education standards organizations include a Score data type definition within their standards. Broadly speaking there is much similarity in design and in the recognition in a need for such a data type, but no uniform practice among and between standards organizations. … The addition of a Score data type to the CDT will provide a basis for more uniform treatment of this key data type across different HR, learning, and education standards organizations.”

Allen recognized the difficulty of cross-domain-should we say “cross organization”-efforts. “Constructive liaison between standards organizations that produces tangible results is very challenging. Often convergence and interoperability initiatives are scoped too broadly. Instead of taking on broad topics as areas for convergence, a more constructive idea is for standards organizations to commit to the creation of a small set of lower-level core data types. Another common problem is that liaison between standards organizations almost always fails when framed as “convergence” between two standards.”
Allen suggested cooperation: “In developing the next generation of SCORM standards, I urge LETSI to work with other standards stakeholders on a narrowly scoped project aimed at developing a small set of neutral core components that each organization could draw upon as their time lines and priorities dictated.”

He further suggested: “UN/CEFACT provides the methodologies and neutral turf where this work might be achieved. Resources are thin across the standards community, but I believe a small amount of attention to a handful of common components could have a big payoff. As an example, I’ve provided a discussion draft related to one such component proposed to go into HR-XML’s forthcoming version 3.0 library. This has been submitted for the consideration by UN/CEFACT’s core data type catalogue committee.”

College and university CIOs should agree with Chuck Allen. This standardization is especially important now. More than seven higher education “standards” organizations are working separately on these common elements.


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