The RAI-NC Weblog Pilot
A Case Study in Utilizing Weblog Technology to Accelerate the Test & Evaluation Process

A Department of Defense CIO Office Initiative

Presented By: Matthew Kowalczyk
Founder & Manager, OnPoint Solutions LLC

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Oct 7 2003 John Stenbit, CIO Department of Defense announces winners of DOD wide RAI-NC Pilots, including the Test & Evaluation Weblog proposal for DOD Project Management Offices sponsored by NUWC / ONR / DAU. This is one of four pilots (from 120 applicants) funded in FY 2004.

"The solution provides a secure, low-cost alternative for centralizing daily communications in a web-based environment. The tool is universal in its applicability and can benefit all DoD components, program offices, and business functional areas"
What's an Enterprise Weblog?
Personal Weblogs
Designed for “Individuals with an Attitude”
One voice per weblog

• Write what you think - easily
• Add notes using your browser
• Weblog server shows notes in time order
• Anyone with a web browser can read
• Links from other weblogs and search engines can make you famous!
Enterprise Weblogs
Designed for “Groups with a Goal”

Traction’s unique Journal supports working communication and information sharing, in context, over time.

Organized by Group, Importance, Topic, Time
- Project spaces have permissions, more private vs. more public
- Individuals see union of all activity, based on permissions

Overlapping Content
- Single article can appear in multiple projects
- Comment on public article can appear in private project

Always up to date
- All views are dynamic
- Search results are current and obey permissions
- Can deliver immediate notification of important events

Quick and easy to deploy, Simple to use
Pilot Background

The Need:

• Lower the cost structure for Test & Evaluation - technology overload

• Focus on rapid assessment of capabilities - requires knowledge from the front lines

• Fuse the knowledge of end users to shorten the learning curve - expedites the speed to capability
The User Perspective
G8 Summit Use Case and Highlights

Laser Night Vision as a force multipier

During the G-8 Summit, we faced two types of threats. The first was a domestic based group who wanted to disrupt the G-8 Summit activities and gain media coverage. The second was from multi-national groups who have ties to terrorist groups that had a goal of undermining the summit by conducting an attack(s) in which they targeted large group of people. Since the attacker holds the advantage of attacking at the time and place of their choosing the security elements are always at a disadvantage.

This fact is why Laser Night Vision was so important to our security of the main industrial areas of the Greater Savannah area. With a Laser coaxial mounted to a low light camera we were able to observe areas which where in low light areas such as roof tops, open areas, water fronts, and alley way were all able to be observed.

The laser Night Vision System is truly flexible, it was able to be hastily installed to a M998 (HUMVEE) quickly and use the available power of the vehicle. The Laser Night Vision Systems is a low cost and highly flexible system which will fill the gap between passive night vision (for purely tactic use) and extreme active illumination such as white light (spot lights). Bottom Line, Laser Night Vision allowed me as a commander to complete my mission with the greatest of flexibility.

Article Comments:

related: NightVision3: G8 Summit Deployment, Day 1 , NightVision80: G8 Summit, Day 5 - Field test of night vision systems, NightVision130: Feedback from Georgia State Patrol at the G8 Summit
[Greg Lloyd, NightVision81, July 19, 2004, 0:01:55 PM EDT]
Publishing via Email
Pilot Weblog Structure

The News Page View is fully scalable for any time slice.

Project are analogous to sections of a newspaper, currently we are on the Trials Front Page.

Entries self-populate by date and classification.
Accessing Test Results

Items categorized with the “Test Results” label are instantly assembled to predefined shortcuts.

Clicking on the nested headline brings the user to the full article.
Once in the article interface, the software allows the user to perform a host of functions (per permissions) including the ability to add nested comments, add links to other articles, or email the article to non-subscribers. This interactive ability fosters information flow and connectivity across a program team.
The Executive Summary serves as a daily rundown of new information in the project, delivered via email. It is delivered only when there is new content, and filtered to the projects that a user has subscriptions to.
Situational Awareness

The Executive Summary and RSS aggregator give the PM a pulse on project activities, without labor intensive manual report generation.

**Executive Summary** – A daily snapshot of new project information, automatically compiled and delivered through email

**RSS Aggregator** – A locally installed applications that surveys the weblog at 15 minute intervals and alerts when new information becomes available
Direct Access to Project Information

• The PM is a click away from accessing the latest snapshots of program information. Hyperlinks to the weblog space are dynamic, delivering the latest content and updates autonomously.
  • Action Items
  • Project Deliverables
  • Expenditures
  • Project Documents
  • Communications (both formal and informal)
T&E Weblog Results

- 50% Reduction in Time Expended for Electronic Communications Management (End-user)
- 75% Reduction in Status Reporting Process
- 29% Reduction in Total Ownership Costs
- 89% Reduction in Bandwidth Usage

T&E Weblog Opportunity Analysis (DoD Final Report)
December 2004 FOUO
Benefits Summary

- Ease of use, works like the web, new partners are easily brought up to speed

- Manages project data in an organized, searchable manner, accessible from any web connection

- Delivers the right data to the right people, minimizes information overflow, filters content and use through permissions