

WISE Technical Advisory Group Minutes

Casper College

Physical Science Building

Room 103

July 18, 2005

District Implementation Support

- WISE Topology Survey: <http://wisetopsurvey.espsg.com>
 - In development process, but should be available by mid-week.
- Detailed overview of the District Implementation Checklist
 - SIS contact information has not been collected. WDE will be conducting interviews to gather this information.
 - Most PowerSchool users will be on version 4.2 by the beginning of the school year. PowerSchool is recommending that they do this.
 - SASI's agent will be provided by eduStructures
 - Configuration details of the agent installation will be dependent on the configuration of the SASI product. Is the SASI product located within a central district location, individual schools, or a combination?
 - District concern over admin username and passwords.
 - The only time that these would be needed is when ESP and eduStructures would be doing remote installations. However, if a district has another way for ESP and eduStructures to gain access to their SIS for installation this is welcomed. (e.g. VPN) In your pre-installation interviews you can state the district's preferred approach.
 - Survey will capture the district's preferences on agent implementation.
 - District concern about content sitting on the ZIS server
 - No data content will exist on the ZIS server. It will act as a router only.
 - Some information will reside within the Central Data Manager (CDM), on the application server, until the report is released to the WDE.
 - Who will use WISE for state reporting this fall will be based on the several variables. Some of the variables include: WDE readiness, extent of district SIF implementation, and reporting timelines.
 - PowerSchool states that their agent can discriminate between historical students and those that are currently enrolled.
 - If you do not have data in one of the optional reporting fields outlined in the WISER ID Guidelines, leave blank.
 - WISER Data Guidelines are guidelines for student information within the SIS. However, they are just guidelines. Districts need to be able to map their data set to the values outlined in the guidelines. The agent will be configured to do the transformation.
 - Note: If the district knows of any special cases concerning data within their SIS, they need communicate them during the agent configuration phase for their district.
 - After the precode file with Harcourt is finalized, WDE will be informing districts of what is needed in the SIS to complete the file.
 - eduStructures has hired two additional people to provide support to districts with the agent configuration process.
 - Districts will need to start considering (long-term) how upgrades to their SISs might impact their agent configurations.

General Update Information

- WISER IDs have been sent to eScholar to begin the process of creating a Uniq-ID system based on Wyoming needs. This file was a combination of files deemed clean by TRIAND and Assessment. Districts where this information was not available were contacted and a WDE671 was requested.
- For purposes of WISE, TRIAND no longer needs to be connected to district SISs. However, if a district is planning on participating in the formative assessment in the fall, their district SISs will need to continue to be connected to TRIAND.

- Districts are not responsible for returning the WISER IDs back into their SISs. That is the responsibility of ESP and eduStructures.
- WISER ID training will be conducted in mid-August. Dates and times are posted on the WISE project site: <http://www.k12.wy.us/WISE/>.

Rock Springs	Riverton	Sheridan
Session 1: 8AM – 12PM, August 16th	Session 1: 1PM – 5PM, August 17th	Session 1: 8AM – 12PM, August 19th
Session 2: 1PM – 5PM, August 16th	Session 2: 8AM – 12PM, August 18th	Session 2: 1PM – 5PM, August 19th

- Training in mid-August will consist of six four-hour sessions at three locations. WDE is trying to limit the number of districts attending each meeting to eight. However, if a time is not convenient, the WDE will work with a district to get them the training.
- WDE will maintain a training box for continuous training of district staff.
- District concern over Department communication was raised
 - Districts feel that they are being burdened with duplicate data collections and would like more communication between Units/Divisions.
 - It was stressed that the purpose of WISE (long-term) is to eliminate duplicate data requests.
 - If a district feels that a data request is redundant, they need to contact the Department.
- ZIS and Application servers have been moved to the aggregation points. Some aggregations points are in need of rack space. The racks have been ordered. All boxes have been installed and none configured. In process of conducting, connectivity testing.
- In some instances, better throughput was gained by placing the servers within a district office rather than at the aggregation point.
- District concern over staffing at the aggregation points
 - The staff at the aggregation points will be responsible for maintenance. District point of contact will be John Woller for the time being until the contacts are finalized.
- 40 of 48 district interviews have been completed. Responses have been delayed due to summer vacations.
- For those districts contemplating changing SISs, WDE has been in discussions with PowerSchool and SASI (Pearson) regarding price. If you would like more information, please contact John Woller.
- A district does not have to change their SIS to participate in WISE. ESP and eduStructures will be working with districts and vendors to ensure participation in WISE.
- Districts would like to know if there are any negotiations about SIS renewals. Thus far, WDE has not contacted vendors regarding renewal cost breaks. WDE will be contacting their reps to determine if anything can be negotiated.
- ESP is in the process of talking with vendors other than PowerSchool and SASI to determine their agent development status.
- WDE will contact PowerSchool and get the Keys needed to download the PowerSchool agent. Hope to have completed and back to districts by 7/22/2005. This information will be sent directly to the WISE coordinators.
- WDE will get the IP addresses for the ZIS servers and inform the districts.
- Certificates will be used for security.
- WDE is the administrator of the ZIS and application servers. WDE will continue to maintain an overview with aggregation points and have aggregation point personnel conduct maintenance on the boxes.
- Districts have 5 years to implement as many as 10 applications within their zone. If a district is ready and wants to accelerate their implementation timeline, this can be done. Contact John Woller if there is interest. However, it is even possible that some districts may choose to implement most of the applications towards the end of the cycle.
- Microsoft and Novell have been contacted about their active directory setup. If a district is using another application and would like their directory as one of their 10 applications just let the WDE know and WDE will work with the vendor.

State / District Element Profiles

- Short overview of analysis work being conducted by ESP to determine the data reporting needs of the State and which SIF objects to use to gather district data. WDE and ESP are still reviewing the SIF objects for a best fit.
- To configure an agent, the districts will need to pull data from their SIS and tell the agent how to transform the data.
- Write back capabilities of an agent are very important for the WISER ID in particular.
- Configuration of an agent can vary widely, estimate anywhere from a few hours to a day. It is also based on the technical ability of the person setting up the agent and their knowledge of the data contained within the SIS.
- It was explained that WDE will be working with Harcourt and TRIAND to create a profile most beneficial to the districts.
- Will publish to districts when the analysis is complete.
- Each district will then need a profile outlining where their data is stored within the SIS. This profile will be done in partnership with districts and ESP.
- Districts expressed concern regarding a lack of monetary support for Departmental collections.
 - Districts would like WDE to investigate any support available to districts to cope with the added data collection burden.
 - Example of monetary funds due to data collections for outside vendors was mentioned. (e.g. Johnson #1 informed group that they have expended an additional \$20,000 for admin costs for data entry around the TRIAND collection.)