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Workshop: Exploring Microsoft's Sharepoint Server

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WORKSHOP:

EXPLORING MICROSOFT'S SHAREPOINT SERVER

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Abstract

SharePoint Server provides functions and features for enterprise portal development, workgroup collaboration, and knowledge sharing. Its functionality can stand alone or be extended through Microsoft's Office products. The purpose of the workshop will be to explore the SharePoint environment and consider its role as a development tool in a CIS program. The workshop will provide an overview of the SharePoint product, present ideas for implementing SharePoint development in a CIS program, and discuss implications for faculty interested in taking the SharePoint plunge.

Keywords: SharePoint, Web development, CIS curriculum

Workshop Overview

Microsoft SharePoint provides functions and features for enterprise portal development, workgroup collaboration, and knowledge sharing. Its functionality can stand alone or be extended through Microsoft's Office products. Implementation of the SharePoint environment requires the Windows server operating system and SQL Server. Administration and development of SharePoint sites is accomplished through a client Web browser.

Once in place, SharePoint can be incorporated as a tool in many CIS courses. Students do not require programming expertise to build Web environments. For example, SharePoint can be used to teach portal design and development or project team collaboration. SharePoint can also support many on-line course delivery needs.

Faculty time for exploring new software packages is limited. Many have not had the opportunity to consider the SharePoint Server product. The author recently taught a new course for non-majors on developing collaborative environments using Microsoft's FrontPage and SharePoint. The purpose of the workshop will be to (1) share her experiences in preparing for and delivering the course as well as (2) help participants explore opportunities for using SharePoint in their own curricula.

The workshop will attempt to answer the following questions:

- What functions and features does SharePoint provide? How does the SharePoint environment work?
- How might SharePoint fit in a typical information systems program?
- Are specific examples of laboratory assignments readily available to use?
- What sources of materials and technical documentation exist for student support?
- How steep is the learning curve for a faculty member first using SharePoint?