CHALLENGES OF THE PRESENT LEAD TO BENEFITS FOR THE FUTURE IN AUTOMATION

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ABSTRACT: While in the midst of migrating our current ILSs to newer systems we contemplate the challenges and record how we might have done it better. Tips we would give the next project managers, and how we see the next generation of users and project managers coping with their migrations will be featured. In doing that we think that developing a timeline, being prepared for all of the pitfalls both internal and external, and getting support from the administration are important. Also important is determining how fancy a system do you want to come up with or can you add the bells and whistles later (determine your priorities). Investigate how you are conforming to existing standards, do you have alternatives if major parts of the implementation does not go well. For instance, if your system administrator is ill during the load, do you have a backup plan to take care of it. Plan for needed interfaces with other on-campus automation such as WebCT, Banner and your campus-networking infrastructure. This also involves looking into the future a bit and speculating with a basis on the latest automation trends what libraries will be facing. Buzz words like grid computing, giga-bandwidth, self-healing operating systems and applications, and the commoditization of information technology centers will affect technology staff and users. The economic drive for these moves will be made evident. Change is better when you have made preparations for it.