

TWG2 (Web) Meeting Padova (ITALY) 16th – 17th June 2005

Present

- Nicola Bernardini
- Alessandra Ceccherelli
- Sandra Pauletto
- Thomas Hermann

Agenda

- 1 - Overview of how the web site is at the moment
- 2 - Overview/brief tutorial of tools being used in the current implementation
- 3 - Enumeration of criticisms received (particularly by our rapporteur Michel Ansorge) 4
- Discussion on how it should be improved: e.g.
 - 4a - Should the website have a more interactive function, apart from being informative?
 - 4B - Provide interaction in the website with national resources scooped up by delegates which should have a form/page to apply, be validated by the relevant delegates, and be put up
 - 4C - Should we make a written document to be circulated among the ConGAS members to remind how information can be uploaded on the current website?
 - 4d - Etc.
- 5 - Discussion about the implementation of the improvements
- 6 - Discussion of other tools to implement/put in place etc.
 - 6a - in particular: cvs, phpgroupware, *wiki, dedicated mailing list, aliases, etc.
- 7 - Assignment of tasks
- 8 - Any other business

1 Overview of web site

Nicola Bernardini started with an overview of the ConGAS web site as it is at the moment. Explained how to use it, add documents, give access, the versioning system, etc.

Site structure

Front End: quick overview of the active sections (Events, Documentation, Countries, Contacts, WGs, Links) and inactive sections (Sitemap, Wiki)

Back End: the site utilises a Zope server to manage the content.

Versioning is potentially very good in Zope: it allows modifying a page off line, therefore creates the possibility of viewing changes before publishing. Changes can be cancelled before publishing.

It is important to work always in “Versioning” when changes are made to the website.

The “Versioning” mode is activated by clicking START and deactivated by clicking QUIT. A small red diamond icon on the top right corner of the document title indicates that versioning is on. See the coming soon ‘How To’ document for details.

ATTENTION: There are some problems with versioning. Sometime it deactivates automatically. It is necessary to verify often if it is on or not.

Zope has many integrated functionalities. One is PLONE: a system that allows the automatic creation of websites.

An example is <http://emotion-research.net>

To change the entire ConGAS website into a PLONE website could provide many new web tools, but it requires transporting all the content of the existing website into a new configuration. This is quite complex and time consuming. The team discussed if it was appropriate to change the web site into a Plone site, but this option was considered not feasible.

Finally, it was realised that the comments expressed by rapporteur Michel Ansorge had been all addressed and fixed already.

2 Website as interactive tool

One main goal of ConGAS is to gather as much resources as possible on Gesture Controlled Audio Systems research and making it available on the web.

The web site should be the tool by which the information is gathered and also published once it has been verified.

Initially the team thought to create a completely automated web tool. The delegates of each country would send an email to all the concerned institutions in the country, they would be directed to a web address where they could insert their research information. This data would have been gathered into a database, then sent to the appropriate country delegate to get validation (the country delegates need to check that the information is correct). Finally the country delegates would send the validated information to the website to be published.

The team looked at various ways of doing this automatically via a database. Databases (MySQL) are possible to create in Zope, but they are complex to set up. In particular the validation stage, which needs to be manual, creates problems.

Finally, it was considered that the amount of institutions working on this subject will not be very high and a less automated system could be used for gathering information.

It was decided that 2 html forms will be created (one for the institution information, one for the research information) and put online.

Draft of two html forms:

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PARTNER|
=====

*** Name:

*** Photo: (with upload of 80x120px image)

*** e-mail address:

*** URL: (personal web page)

*** Institution:

*** URL: (institution web site)

*** Key research interest: (3 rows text area)

[SUBMIT button]

=====
PROJECT|
=====

*** Title:

*** Contact Person: (3 rows)

*** Description: (8-10 rows text area)

*** URL: (project's web site)

*** Funded by:

*** Typology: (list of possibilities: COST Action, IST...)

*** Edited by: (Partner Name)

[SUBMIT button]

These forms will be used by each country institution to enter their data and send it to ConGAS. The data will be sent in form of a text email to the TWG2 emailing list. The TWG2 team will then send the data to the appropriate delegate for validation. The data will be published in the ConGAS website with a personal information part at the top of the page (data of the researcher with photo) and a part with all the projects related to that person.

3 Wiki

It was suggested to implement a wiki page where an interactive forum could be implemented, news and various other interactive facilities.

The team tested if it was possible to create a wiki page in Zope and was almost successful. Some software was missing from the server so the testing will be completed as soon as possible (see actions).

4 'How to' documents and templates

It was decided that an 'How to' document should be created and put online so that any ConGAS participant, after having obtained a username and password by the TWG2 team, can easily upload information on the ConGAS website by following the instructions in the 'How to' document.

A template of a typical ConGAS website page will also be created and published.

5 Emailing list

The TWG2 emailing list was created twg2@lists.cost287.org

Nicola Bernardini, Alessandra Ceccherelli, Sandra Pauletto and Thomas Hermann receive the emails sent to this list.

Actions (deadline for actions 15 july 2005)

Nicola:

- solve problems with Formulator for html forms creation
- set up ZWiki in the ConGAS website

Alessandra:

- create html forms in formulator for data gathering

Sandra:

- Create 'how to..' document for the ConGAS website
- create a template web page which shows the function of each div etc.

Thomas:

- set up main wiki page
- write a draft email (to be checked and approved by all ConGAS delegates via the ConGAS emailing list) to send to the research institutions asking them to fill in the ConGAS web forms

All:

- as soon as web forms are up in the ConGAS web, the TWG2 team should fill them in in order to create examples.

Next meeting:

At SMC 05 in Salerno 24-26 November 2005.