

Related Products

Cobricks has several „competitors“ in the field of open source (community-)portal toolkits. The following list collects the most important projects with similar functionality or possibilities.

Apache JetSpeed Portal

<http://jakarta.apache.org/jetspeed/>



ZOPE Portal Application Server

<http://www.zope.org/>

ZOPE projects

Silva – <http://www.inrae.com/products/silva>

ElevateIT – <http://www.elevateit.org/>



uPortal

<http://mis105.mis.udel.edu/ja-sig/uportal/>



CommSy

<http://www.commsy.de/>



KAON Portal

<http://kaon.semanticweb.org/>



CURE

<http://www.pi6.fernuni-hagen.de/CURE/>



These products are either generic toolkits (JetSpeed, ZOPE) or solutions for special application areas. In contrast to most of these products, Cobricks provides a better support for configuration and integration with other platforms and portals while at the same time enabling a out-of-the-box usage.

Contact and Information



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Project Information

Homepage

www.cobricks.org

Homepage at Sourceforge.net

www.sourceforge.net/projects/cobricks

- Mailing lists
- Forums
- File Distributions
- CVS-Repository



Cobricks

*Bricks for Supporting Collaboration in
Teams and Communities*



A toolkit for building Web- and WebService based platforms for supporting communication and collaboration in teams and communities.

www.cobricks.org

Cobricks – The Vision

Software for supporting collaboration in teams or communities is currently dominated by monolithic systems with proprietary user interfaces. Because of this, integration of collaboration and community support systems with each other and with other infrastructure components like portals, identity management systems or content management solutions are not possible or very hard to do.

First attempts to address these issues can be found in the collaboration product lines of different vendors like IBM or Oracle and in the integration of collaboration support tools into portals (e.g. MS Exchange, Lotus Notes and Lotus Sametime into BEA or Plumtree portals). In this context several groups are currently working on the definition and implementation of clear interfaces for collaboration modules. Hereby, WebServices are playing an important role.

In the project Cobricks we are working on concepts for the modularization and integration of collaboration and community support applications. This includes work on architecture landscapes and on interfaces and standards for data structures (ontologies) for collaboration and community support systems.

Cobricks – The Product

Based on the ideas about support for communication and collaboration in teams and communities we have developed a modular community support platform toolkit. This toolkit allows to easily build community platforms that can be integrated with other applications and that can interoperate with each other.

The first version of the Cobricks System (Cobricks-1) is developed since 1998, and is used in several research prototypes and in large live platforms:



<http://www.in.tum.de/>
Fakultät für Informatik, TU München



<http://www.wi.tum.de/>
Fakultät für Wirtschaftswissenschaften, TU München



<http://iis.unibw-muenchen.de/>
Institut für Informationstechnische Systeme, Universität der Bundeswehr München



<http://www.fgcscw.gi-ev.de/>
Special Interest Group on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work of the German Computer Society (GI)

With the experience from the first version we started mid 2003 to develop a new version of Cobricks – Cobricks-2. The new version was made available as open source project on SourceForge beginning of 2004.

Cobricks consists of a core and of different optional modules and extensions. Currently, the following modules are developed for Cobricks-2:



core toolkit: The basic modules for highly adaptable out-of-the-box community platforms



item-voting: Functions for initiating votings and surveys.



course: Course and timetable management for universities.



cwall: “Community Mirror” – Visualisation of community information on external displays.

More components and applications are planned and will follow in the near future.

Cobricks – Details

The strength of the Cobricks platform is the high configurability, and the issue that it is easy to integrate it with other elements of the information system infrastructure in enterprises.

Data concepts and ontologies: The basis of the configurability are the generic core data concepts (for user, item, category and context) that are parameterized by ontologies.

Portal integration: The user interface can be easily adapted by (Velocity-)templates or JSPs and can be used in the included Portal Component or in external portals (JCP168, WSRP, ...).

Single-Sign-On and Profile Federation: User profiles and authentication information can be exchanged with other platforms or identity management servers/networks.

Agents: User can access the platform both by the Web user interface or with personal clients/agents (and WebService interfaces). Additionally, the platform will provide on-platform user agents for handling more complex queries in the future.