Virtual Collaboratory

Rob Knapp Virtual Collaboratory Project http://opensource.perpich.com

myddrin@myddrin.com

What Is A Collaboratory?

"center without walls, in which the nation's researchers can perform their research without regard to physical location, interacting with colleagues, accessing instrumentation, sharing data and computational resources, [and] accessing information in digital libraries" (Wulf, 1989).

What Do We Worry About?

 Our primary focus is scientific collaboration, international, regional, or just down the hall

 As a result we don't just model data, we look at how groups of individuals interact with it

What Do Our Users Worry About?

Getting productive work done

Not having to learn a bunch of "new stuff"

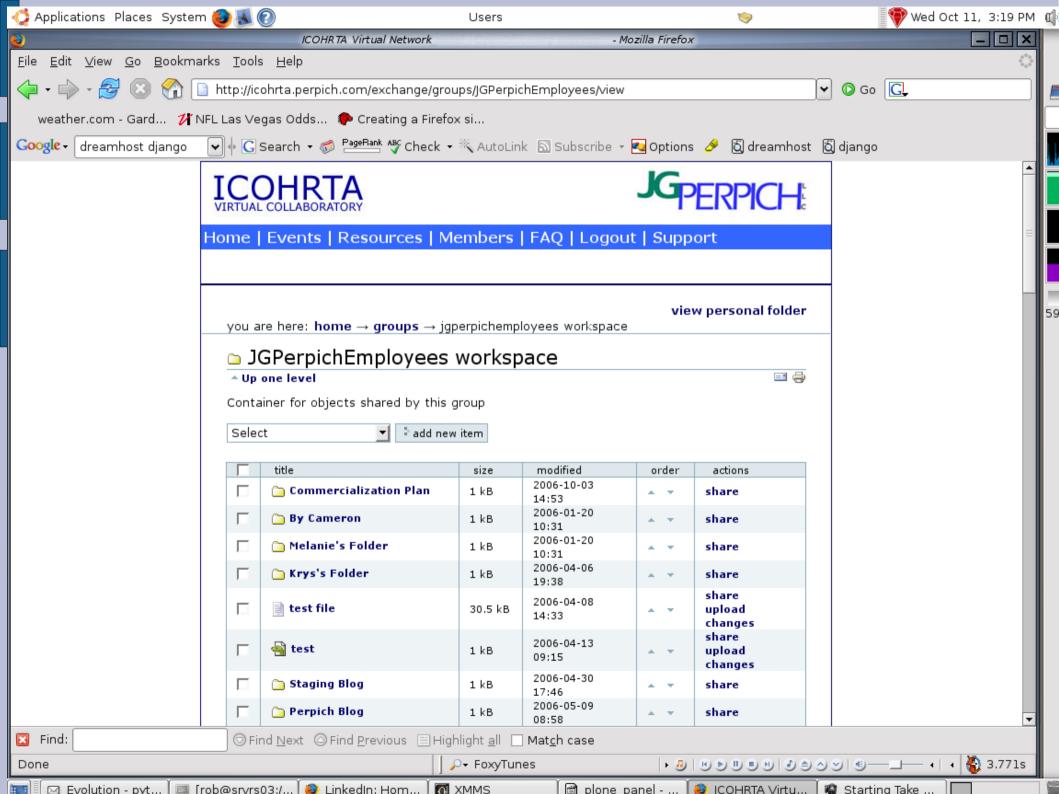
Minimizing time on the computer/online time

Where Does Plone Fit In?

- Plone provides our users with a file sharing infrastructure we call DocX
- Users can upload content
- Other members of the group can download content and edit it.
- Content is virus checked and version controlled

Version Control

- Ridiculously Simple Version Control (RSVC)
- Check-in and Check-out is integrated into download/upload process
 - Annoying for power users
- Old versions as simply saved to a folder called "OlderVersions"



Virus Checking

- Virus checking provided by pyclamav
- When file is uploaded it is scanned
- Detection of a virus throws an exception
- Error message indicates the name of the virus

Authentication

- The rest of our system is written in Py-MyCMS
- Has its own authentication system
- Users HATE logging in more than once
- Created our own UserFolder, based on MySQLUserFolder to consolidate authentication

"One more thing..."

- BlogPoster
- Allows blog posts to be composed and edited by a group, using kupu WYSIWYG editor
- When post is "ready" it is posted via standard blog protocol (metaweblog)

