Brief Bio and (PR)$^2$: Problems & Pitches – Rants & Raves by Richard Outten

Self Introduction
Richard Outten is the Senior Manager of the Enterprise Web Team in Duke’s Office of Information Technology, which handles design, development, and maintenance of enterprise web applications, including the Event Calendar, the DukePass student portal, Department Schedule Validator, and Duke Engage. The team makes use of a variety of technologies specializing in custom Java and Ruby development and data integration via web services.

Richard earned his undergraduate degree in Aerospace Engineering and then his Master’s in Software Engineering from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Richard stays current by attending local user groups for agile software development (AgileRTP), Ruby programming (Raleigh Ruby Brigade) and functional programming (TriFunc).

Current Applications with most involving open source software:
- Events@Duke - event calendaring at Duke built on Bedework
- DukePass - student portal built on uPortal
- Online Gifts to Duke - built on Ruby on Rails
- Several departmental applications written in Java and Ruby that interface with PeopleSoft and SAP

General Questions
1) What is your main interest in attending the workshop?
   - We are implementing VIVO here at Duke and we would like to understand how VIVO can be sustained going forward into the future.
   - Since we are in active development of the VIVO Widgets mini-grant project, we are interested in hearing ideas from the group as to how they see this tool helping with the future of VIVO.
2) What three features or functions of researcher networking (i.e., tools and services related to assisting researchers with finding people, resources, data, projects, and scholarly works) are most critical to adoption?

   1. Bio-sketch/CV generation
   2. Easily find other researchers working on projects in which the user has an interest.
   3. Integration with a full text repository to easily allow publicly available papers to be found by users browsing VIVO. This part of the integration could be reused, besides interacting with repositories using standards like SWORD, but also providing workflow beneficial to researchers.

3) What three features of researcher networking are most critical to success after adoption, or sustainability?

   1. Adoption and use of the data beyond the local VIVO instance. At the departmental, school and national level, there is interest in researcher information and the potential for collaboration and innovation.
   2. Simple, straightforward interface for researchers to update their information only when it is required. We don’t want to ask the researcher to update their information more than is necessary and automate as much as possible.
   3. Easily consumable feeds coming from VIVO for web developers. RDF/N3 are consumable formats by machines, but can be cumbersome for developers to work with particularly within a browser. Friendlier formats for getting this data could really help the growth and explanation of VIVO data.

4) Are you aware of especially innovative approaches to any of these features or functions?

   - For simplified data access for RDF data, the linked-data-api (eldaj - java implementation) is an attempt to make a more friendly format for web developers.

5) What features of researcher networking are most important to you as a researcher, for your own use?

   - Finding out other research that is being done in the field that I’m interested in beyond the top search result in Google.
   - Having a web site that accurately and comprehensively represents the breadth of my work, and that I’d be proud to have come up highly ranked when others search for my name. When I apply for grants or otherwise need to show off my work, I’d like something that is impressive and elegant.
   - Services that enable potential collaborators to find me, based on current and accurate information about my work.

6) Are you or your group working on any of these features?

   - VIVO Widgets will provide some visibility to researcher data beyond VIVO, but will encourage visitors to keep up with research that is currently going on.
7) What would you like to learn / achieve at the workshop?
   ● A strategy on keeping VIVO and Semantic Web moving forward to become the next generation of information sharing.
   ● Understand how the VIVO project plans to sustain momentum on the project beyond the grant.