




Open Source Portal Comparison

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Agenda

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- A digital whiteboard with a dark blue frame and a light blue surface. A black pen is positioned diagonally on the left side of the board. The board contains a list of seven items in white text.
- Introduction
 - Open Source Portals
 - Portlet Portability
 - CCLRC Study
 - Marketshare
 - Future differentiators
 - Questions and Answers



Introduction

There are several popular open source JSR 168 compliant portals available.

With the Ja-sig community working towards the release of uPortal 3 it is important to understand, assess and potentially learn from the alternative portal solutions.

Open Source Portal Comparison

Resources

- **JBoss**
 - <http://labs.jboss.com/portal/jbossportal/index.html>
 - <http://labs.jboss.com/portal/index.html?ctrl:id=page.default.downloads&project=portletswap>
- **LifeRay**
 - <http://www.liferay.com/web/guest/home>
- **JetSpeed-2**
 - <http://portals.apache.org/jetspeed-2/>
- **GridSphere**
 - <http://www.gridsphere.org/gridsphere/gridsphere>
- **eXo**
 - <http://www.exoplatform.com/company/faces/public/company>
- **StringBeans**
 - <http://www.nabh.com/projects/sbportal>
- **CCLRC evaluation**
 - <http://epubs.cclrc.ac.uk/bitstream/785/406.pdf>

JBoss Portal

Portal: JBoss Portal	
Latest Edition	JBoss Portal 2.4
Date Released	Scheduled for June 1 st , thus far no official declaration of completion
Community	JBoss Inc & Community
License	LGPL
Platform	JBoss AS
Theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Swappable themes and layouts, deployed as WAR.•Different layouts can be assigned to different pages.
UE	JSF, MyFaces, Spring MVC... Demo of a few Ajax based portlets.

LifeRay Portal

Portal: LifeRay Portal	
Latest Edition	LifeRay 4.0.0
Date Released	?? News apparently does not come with dates at liferay☺ Seems recent though.
Community	LifeRay
License	MIT License
Platform	Comes in two versions: Professional: Tomcat, Jetty, Resin... Enterprise: Any J2EE Application server
Theme	•Swappable themes, deployed as WAR. 30 community themes available for use.
UE	Struts and Tiles. Easy to skin because most of it is concentrated into a few templates.

JetSpeed2 Portal

Portal: JetSpeed2	
Latest Edition	JetSpeed-2
Date Released	Dec 8, 2005
Community	Apache
License	Apache 2.0
Platform	Any servlet container 2.3 or higher
Theme	?? simple guide for customizing layout using Velocity available... found very little on themes or customizing them.
UE	Velocity or JSP, Ajax support

GridSphere Portal

Portal: GridSphere	
Latest Edition	GridSphere 2.1.5
Date Released	May 30, 2005
Community	GridSphere Community
License	GridSphere Software License
Platform	Jakarta Tomcat Servlet Container Tomcat 4.1+, or Tomcat 5.0.25+, is required.
Theme	Not a lot of info on customizing theme and customizing layouts is a manual process.
UE	JSF, support for portlet-zing struts apps.

eXo Portal

Portal: eXo	
Latest Edition	eXo 1.1.2 (part of eXo Platform v2)
Date Released	May 30, 2006
Community	More commercial now. 27 full time developers.
License	GPL or Commercial
Platform	Tomcat or J2EE App Server
Theme	Global and local themes supported. Poorly documented as yet.
UE	JSF, velocity, cacoon and struts bridges available

StringBeans Portal

Portal: StringBeans	
Latest Edition	String Beans 3.0.1
Date Released	Dec 5, 2005
Community	Nabh (also support MVCPortlet) as well as typical user community.
License	GPL or Commercial
Platform	Servlets 2.3 and Java Server Pages (JSP) 1.2 specification
Theme	JSP & CSS. Good documentation, quick rebranding as well as serious theme dev.
UE	JSP, with struts bridge support...

Portlet Portability

Portal	#	Portable?	License
JBoss Portal	26+	range 1-5	Mostly LGPL, GPL, some Apache 2.0
LifeRay	78+	range 1-5	MIT License
JetSpeed-2	0		Apache 2.0
GridSphere	20+	1	GridSphere License
eXo	0		GPL & Commercial
StringBeans	10+	1	GPL & Commercial
Portability scale: least portable 1 --- 5 very portable			

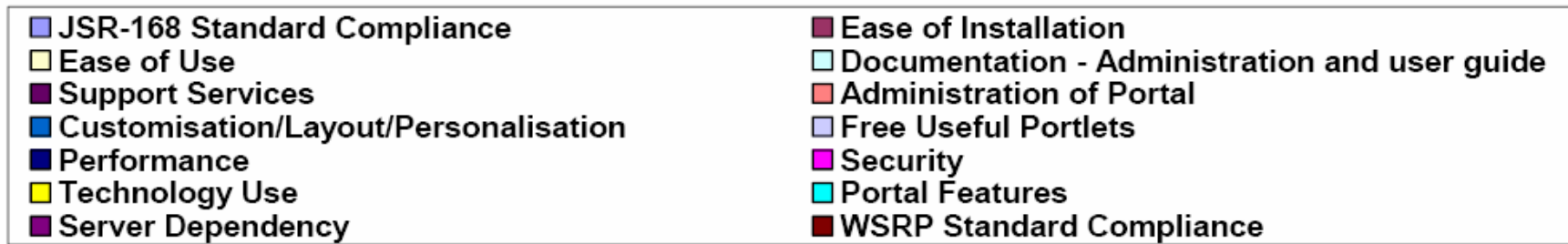
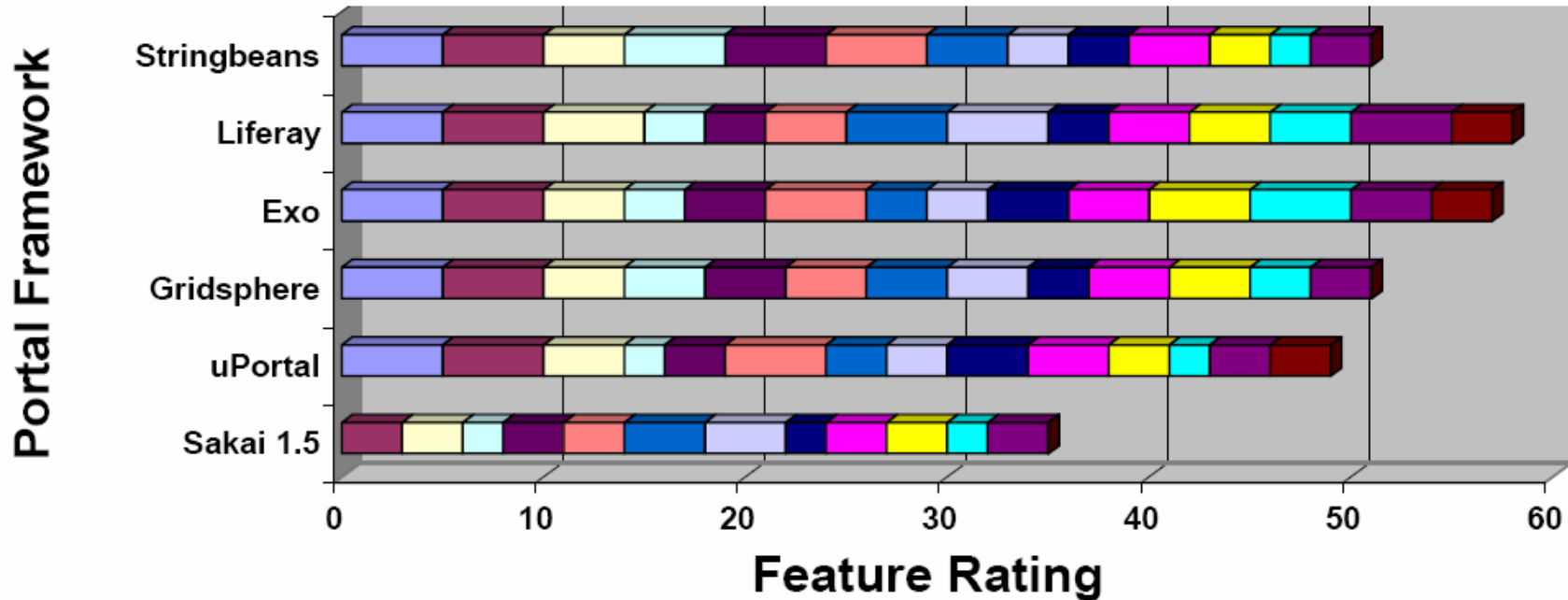
CCLRC e-Science Centre Study Results

Table1: Evaluation Result

Criteria	Portal Framework					
	Sakai 1.5	uPortal	Gridsphere	Exo	Liferay	Stringbeans
JSR-168 Compliance	0	5	5	5	5	5
Ease of Installation	3	5	5	5	5	5
Ease of Use	3	5	4	5	4	5
Documentation	2	2	4	3	3	5
Support Services	3	3	4	4	3	5
Administration of Portal	3	5	4	5	4	5
Customisation	4	3	4	3	5	4
Free Useful Portlets	4	3	4	3	5	3
Performance	2	4	3	4	3	3
Security	3	4	3	4	4	4
Technology Use	3	3	4	5	4	3
Portal Features	2	2	3	5	4	2
Server Dependency	3	3	3	4	5	3
WSRP Compliance	0	3	0	3	3	0
Total	35	49	51	57	58	51

Doesn't add up <http://epubs.cclrc.ac.uk/bitstream/785/406.pdf>

CCLRC e-Science Centre Study Results



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CCLRC e-Science Centre Study - Positive

- Very Stable
- Supports maximum range of portlets
- Well suited for academic institutions
- WSRP support

CCLRC e-Science Study – Improvement Needed

- Documentation ‘not considered good’
- Documentation not up to date.
- Documentation scattered across Ja-sig website, confluence wiki, email lists, jira, and external sources
- Poor placement of materials causes usability issues for beginners.
- Lacking features such as CMS

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Open Source Portal Comparison

Open Source Portal Marketshare



Present Differentiators

- Drag and Drop Customization
- Ease with which a custom theme can be developed.
- Portlet Hot Deploy
- JSR 170
- Improved Documentation

Future Differentiator – JSR 286

- Expected to be finished May 2007
 - Some parts expected to be available for review as early as July 2006
- Features for JSR 286
 - Portlet to Portlet communication through events
 - Sharing of Portlet Session data ACROSS portlet web applications
 - Sharing of Render Parameters
 - Better support for development frameworks (especially JavaServer Faces)
 - AJAX support

Open Source Portal Comparison

Key Future Differentiator

COMMUNITY

Questions and Answers

