Bamboo

Planning Project Update

David Greenbaum, University of California, Berkeley
Chad J. Kainz, University of Chicago

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Where We Are

- Halfway through planning project and transitioning from data gathering and synthesis **to** synthesis and definition
  - workshops 1-3 complete; workshops 4-5 scheduled
- 440+ individuals from 110+ institutions have been involved including:
  - faculty, deans, CIOs, librarians, researchers, IT professionals, project leaders, organization and foundation officers, and some from industry;
  - research universities, liberal arts colleges, public and private institutions, museums, libraries, and professional organizations; and
  - participants from the US, Canada, Australia, Italy, Germany, France, England, Scotland, and Ireland
- Reworking, relocating, rescheduling workshops
  - revamped entire workshop model after faculty feedback at WS1a (Berkeley)
  - co-located WS3 with humanities/digital humanities center directors' meeting
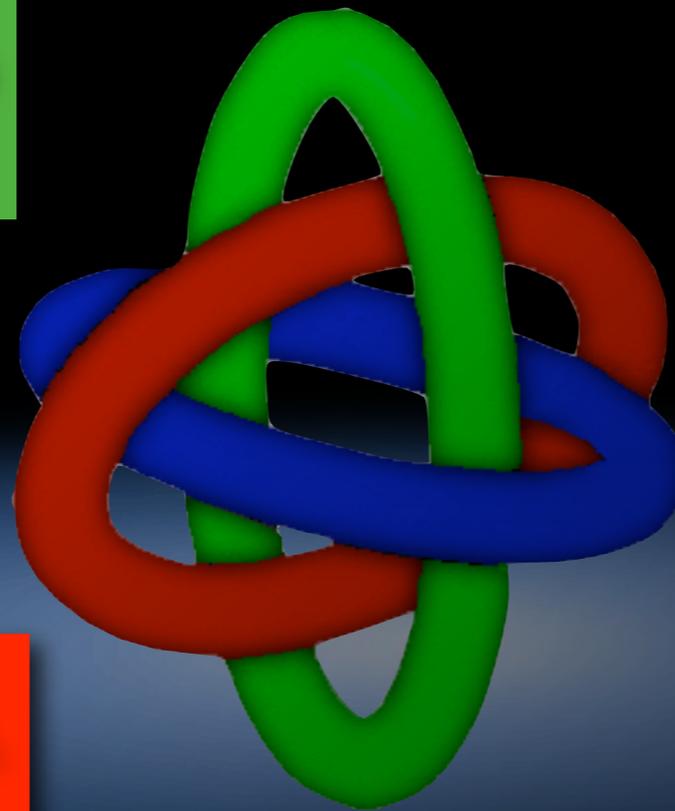 - WS5 scheduled immediately before DH 2009 and in the Washington DC area

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Bamboo Vision of Cyberinfrastructure

Borromean Ring Model adapted from the NSF vision outlined the "Atkins Report"

understanding of practices and commonalities

shared technology services

organizational, partnership, and social models

- Relationships of mutual respect.
- Relationship of mutual benefit within the norms of the "ring community."
- Participatory, iterative design, use, evaluation.
- A culture of collective reward.
- To be a bit eccentric (can't be circles)

*Three symmetric, interlocking rings, no two of which are interlinked. Removing one destroys the synergy.

What We're Doing

- Defining an overarching Bamboo program vision that includes
  - shared services from innovation through ubiquity;
  - standards and practices that emerge out of the community;
  - scholarly networking that fits in to existing VRE and social approaches;
  - education and professional development for faculty, staff and students;
  - creating as little as possible but building upon what has been done; and
  - embracing a fundamental view of e- and cyberinfrastructure where infrastructure of this nature should fit in rather than stand out

- Developing a three-tier consortial model (**explore**, **plan**, **build**) that takes into account the fundamental elements of Bamboo and the diverse strengths of its community

- Identifying a **subset** of program elements that will form the initial implementation project

Where We're Headed

- Still focused on "how do we enhance arts and humanities research through shared technology services?"
  - **technology** still central to the project and is balanced against practice
  - **sharing** requires more investment in the social dimension than we had expected
  - **services** started as an **alien concept** that most were wary of, but has evolved into a **foreign concept** that most seem to be willing to explore and for a few, willing to adopt as a **common concept**.

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Where We're Headed

- Sorting out the challenge of "services" in a space largely defined by vertical applications and solutions tied to short-term project models

- "One-size fits all" approach **will not work for everything** as it is **counter** to the academic culture of **innovation**
  - Exploring a marketplace adoption model for "discipline-specific" services
  - Looking toward established enterprise models for more "utility" services
  - As more "discipline-specific" services are broadly adopted, looking at ways to transform them into "utility" services through a standards-like approach
  - Exploring cloud options for long-term service delivery

- Ongoing, we need to keep working on and evolving ideas, processes, and protocols around service identification, definition, selection, development, testing, production, deployment, consumption, integration, and re-use

Where We're Headed

- More effort and activity is centering on the "human elements"
  - connecting scholars together and building networks of trust, which, in turn, enable service and resource sharing across boundaries
  - professional development and education for next-generation scholars
  - having conversations with related efforts and across communities to sort out complex issues and the ever-present problem of unintentional replication

- Social dimension is critical and represents a **paradox**
  - sharing isn't going to happen without services to share
  - services need to have a value that's beyond the services themselves, so Bamboo needs to seed services of value, not simply technical solutions
  - services of value exist in the range of current software projects and yet, we can't ask such projects to throw away everything and start over
  - Bamboo must tap existing projects of community importance, and generate value for both the projects and community simultaneously

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Challenges We're Facing

Scale: way more people and institutions interested in Bamboo than we had ever anticipated…

Asynchronous Resonance: different groups are seeing Bamboo in different ways and at different times, thus making the planning process much more fragmented that we had planned. For example, what does Bamboo and cyberinfrastructure for the arts and humanities mean to…

> a dean… provost/chancellor/president… faculty member… humanities center… computer scientist… digital humanities center… library… archive… museum… publishers and university presses… CIO… IT staff… funders… a campus… system… consortium… national effort… field… discipline…

Readiness: ongoing tension within communities inside Bamboo as well as institutional teams – shared services to some is a **common** concept and doable, others it is **foreign** but explorable, and to a few the idea is **alien** and doubtful…

Metaphors We're Choosing to Live By

Bamboo…

is a **pub** to share ideas and build relationships.

has become a **forum** to discuss topics and create networks.

could be a **marketplace** to discover options and exchange resources.

has the potential to be a **community organization** that brings people together to work toward a common good.

is filling a role as an **urban planner** who integrates concepts and lays out a vision within the context of other environments and ecosystems.

could act like a **standards body** to coalesce practice and promote interoperability across projects, fields, and disciplines.

and its whole community as a single entity has the potential to act collectively like an **architect** who helps translate vision and concepts into projects.

may bring together **builders** who turn ideas into reality so the cycle can continue and the next project can be designed and built.