

2014 New Year Edition



The Update

Student Information System Project Brief

Website Updates

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

WINTER 2014

NEW POLL
On Deployment

New Blog Entry:
Bridge to the Future



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Shifting Gears 1

TNT Power 1

Website Analytics 3

Q2 Key Dates 4

Read More

To view past editions of this newsletter go to the [PORTICO website](http://www.dau.mil/portal).

Shifting Gears for SIS Deployment

As Campus Management Corporation delivers the final modules of the new student information system, DAU ramps up the PORTiCO deployment effort.

During DAU's Annual Update review, Mark Whiteside, Director of Performance Resource Management (PRM), discussed the array of activity associated with this deployment effort. At the top of his list was an ongoing push for quality control—see figure 1. “We won’t launch the SIS until it’s ready for



PRM Director, Mark Whiteside



Figure 1: PORTiCO Quality Control Activities

primetime,” said Mr. Whiteside as he underscored the key objective: an uncompromised student experience.

His comments were timely given the firestorm of media attention paid to Healthcare.gov’s problematic rollout. More to the point, they address an issue that has confounded many public

TNT Power

Recently we asked a few members of the training and testing (TNT) teams to write a blog about their perspective on the PORTiCO deployment ef-

— Articles continued on Page 2 —

GATEWAY TO EXCELLENCE

One test is worth a thousand expert opinions.

—Wernher Von Braun

To stay connected to PORTiCO, go to www.dau.mil/sis

“It’s going to be a carefully choreographed dance to the finish line...”



Deployment: Cutover Considerations

sector technology projects: rigorous deployment planning.

To assure DAU stakeholders that PORTICO was committing to a thoughtful deployment process, Mr. Whiteside reviewed the deployment process and impacts to specific business units. He and the SIS Core Team also devoted several minutes to review the cutover plan for

the system’s introduction.

Using a countdown timeline, the SIS Team outlined the specific cutover activities to occur in the final stage of deployment. These actions included the embargo of new registration applications, the permanent shutdown of STARS, and the testing of new ATRRS data flow paths. “It’s going to be a carefully choreographed

dance to the finish line,” remarked Mr. Whiteside, “but we’re determined to hit our marks.”

In response to several inquiries by audience members, Mr. Whiteside noted that specific dates for cutover activities would be available as deployment progressed. These cutover activities will be directly communicated to all affected organizations.

TNT Power: Of Blogs and Bridges

fort. Amidst a heavy workload, they took a few minutes to share their thoughts on our [website blog](#).

The process of drafting the blog piece was an interesting collaboration as they negotiated how to describe their collective experiences.

After some debate, Rashid, one of the testing mavens, remarked, “It’s something like building a bridge...a bridge to the future.” That concept seemed to capture the imagination of the group and they went with it.

The result is a unique window into what motivates the team and how they approach the complex and challenging work of standing up a new system for the acquisition workforce. (Select this link to read their [blog](#).)

“It’s something like building a bridge... a bridge to the future.”

Members of TNT Crew:
Urfan Choudhry,
Ann Malik &
Rashid Munir



PORTiCO Website Analytics: Building Awareness

In the last few issues of the Update, we have introduced readers to digital analytics (using data to observe and improve the user experience on digital properties such as the PORTiCO website). We've provided a glimpse into these analytics to demonstrate how we're using the website to build awareness but also to expose stakeholders to the important role analytics will play in

driving continuous improvement of the future PORTiCO student portal.

In the last quarter of activity, we've seen significant jumps in website pageviews (or traffic) versus the prior quarter (+30%). That improvement was also seen in the form of unique visitors to the website which was up over 25 percent from the last quarter.

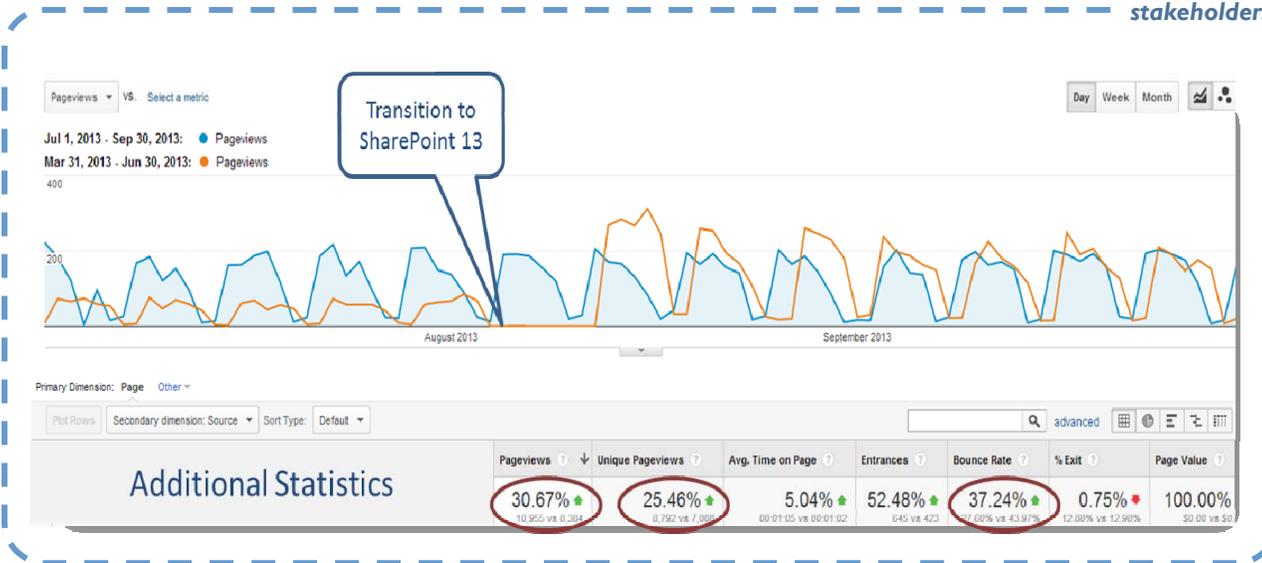
Although the fall generally drives more traffic to the website, we also see strong interest in the new content

related to user functionality—the third most visited page on the website. This interest in SIS user functionality is translating into a lower bounce rate (visitors exiting from the first page they visit) and a significantly longer time on the website when compared to the same period last year.

We hope this same insight will help us ensure that the student portal remains both relevant and dynamic years after its launch.

"[We want]...to expose stakeholders to the

important role analytics will play on driving continuous improvement of the ...portal."



"We hope this same insight will help ensure the portal is both relevant and dynamic..."

| Page | Source | Pageviews | Pageviews |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Source of Visitor Traffic | | | |
| | | 30.67% ↑ 10,965 vs 8,284 | 30.67% 10,965 vs 8,284 |
| 1. /sis/default.aspx | Direct traffic | 4,042 | 36.90% |
| Jul 1, 2013 - Sep 30, 2013 | | 3,207 | 30.32% |
| 2. /sis/default.aspx | iCatalog | 2,616 | 23.88% |
| Jul 1, 2013 - Sep 30, 2013 | | 1,613 | 19.24% |
| 3. /sis/default.aspx | Google Search Engine | 2,293 | 20.93% |
| Jul 1, 2013 - Sep 30, 2013 | | 2,000 | 23.85% |
| 4. /sis/default.aspx | Bing Search Engine | 1,745 | 15.97% |
| Jul 1, 2013 - Sep 30, 2013 | | 1,190 | 14.19% |
| 5. /sis/default.aspx | Yahoo Search Engine | 143 | 1.31% |
| Jul 1, 2013 - Sep 30, 2013 | | 57 | 0.58% |

January 2014

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
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February 2014

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| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | |

Q2 Key Dates for PORTiCO

Product Deliverable Milestones

Software Patches and Remediation

3 January | Patch 5

13 January | Patch 6

Testing Milestones

7 February (est) | Interim Authority to Test granted

7 February (est) | CMC Integrations Testing Begins

IPT Meetings: 4 February | 4 March

ATO meetings: 15 January | ASM IPR

22 January | Training Overview

March 2014

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| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

Data Validation Effort—Ft Belvoir

September 2013

