

Federate Portals For Overcoming Intra- And Inter-organizational Proliferation of Portals

– Frame of discussion, concepts, models and realisation –

by

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Abstract

Business portals are discussed and implemented for almost six years. Their increasing utilization and success has led to the phenomenon of portal-proliferation. The main value-add of portals, which is achieved by providing a “Single Point of Access” to people, processes and applications for the employees is dissolved by this trend. One way to address this issue is discussed as Federate Portals. However the description of Federate Portals is very vague in current publications.

The dissertation has the goal to develop a theoretical framework based on an operationalization of Federate Portal concepts and a detailed requirements analysis. Moreover the concept has to be implemented and tested in a practical scenario. The major contribution of the dissertation is the detailed modelling of a runtime environment for Federate Portals which considers the complex organizational and technical context of modern enterprises. Questions to be addressed are for example: ways to distribute the portal meta-data, the form of coordination between Federate Portals, the handling of occurring conflicts and the (technical) construction of trust between partners. The suitability of the developed meta-model was tested by implementing an IT-based solution. The field test in a business environment in cooperation with a partner company ensured further validation of the model and implementation, as well as providing a positive feedback for all stages of the design process. Thus a functional and robust overall result of a federate portal framework concept and implementation was achieved.