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Social Infrastructure for Project Management Information Systems

Cristina NICULESCU*, Radu ION**

Research Institute for Artificial Intelligence, Bucharest, Romania

*E-mail: Cristina.Niculescu@racai.ro, **E-mail: radu@racai.ro

Abstract

The subject of our work is to design a system that allows groups to collaborate over computer networks. Our implemented pilot system is an e-learning collaborative tool for assisting stakeholders in project management activities.

At the present time we are facing a paradigmatic change in developing learning assisted systems: in the last years their development was technology centered, but nowadays their development centers *on the application of specific human behavior concepts in using the new learning, communications and business technologies*. The last years' neuroscience investigations show the importance of emotions, intentions and social factors, besides the cognitive elements, in learning.

The user interface has distinct areas for displaying client interfaces applications: window for the user's composed text, which is to be dispatch to the *chat* application, discussion window (*chat* interface), *social proxy* interface, and user specific interface. This latest interface allows the user's subscription/unsubscription to/from a discussion group of one of his projects; the user can also consult the discussion base of the system and the electronic shared documents, applying specific retrieving criteria. The *social proxy interface* has the role of mutual awareness and responsibility. Therefore, it is easier to discuss coherently, to watch and imitate other persons' actions, to conform to social conventions and to engage in other collective interaction forms.

Keywords: Web user interfaces, social translucence, social proxy, PMIS (Project Management Information System), KB (Knowledge Base), KM (Knowledge Management), CSCL (Computer Supported Collaborative Learning), annotated documents, XML (Extensible Markup Language).