A Web Collaborative Editor: awareness indicators in an experiment at school

Christophe Courtin, Steve Giraud
SysCom team
University of Savoie FRANCE
Some questions...

• What is our main objective?
• Which method we plan to use?
• What is the aim of the presented work?
Content

1. The context of the experiment
2. The experiment
3. The feedback of the portal’s tools
4. The needs in terms of awareness in the collaborative editor
5. Perspective
6. Conclusion
The context of the experiment

- The « cartable électronique® » project
  - metaphor of the real schoolbag
  - several educational services
  - 3 schools and 1 university (around 10000 users)
- The Web collaborative editor
  - a new educational service
  - teachers and pupils in the same classroom
Traditional vs. computer based awareness indicators

specific questions

⇒ { indicator(s) } vs. { indicator(s) + indicator(s) }

in a traditional way

groupware awareness indicators

with a collaborative editor (same location, 1/computer)

natural

computer supported

natural
Feedback of the portal’s tools

- Need of the perception of important events and relevant actions (workspace awareness)
- Knowledge of the structure of the group (group’s structure awareness)
Awareness needs in the editor

• Teachers need to know:
  – what are the different parts of the document?
  – who are working on this theme?
  – who has done that and when?
  – etc.
Awareness needs in the editor

• Pupils need to know:
  – What I have to do?
  – May I modify the fragment?
  – What is the last modification on a fragment?
  – What do the others think about my work?
  – etc.
Collaborative editor snapshots
Perspective

Plug-and-play packages of awareness indicators relative to a specific situation, available on demand.

• 2 orientations, 3 projects
  – Application oriented → built-in package
  – « Framework » oriented → Gutwin
Conclusion

• This first experiment has permitted identification of some awareness indicators.
• The definition of packages of awareness indicators would highlight awareness concepts.
• The next step is the definition of an awareness model.