Collaborative Projects as Social Networks

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Abstract

Institutions, large and small, are increasingly using internet infrastructure, services and applications to decentralize staff and operations, evolving from a closed to an open house, networked environment, where more and more informal knowledge needs to be shared and managed. At the same time, with a very large percentage of corporate processes being formally supported by information systems, there is an ever increasing gap separating the institutions’ explicit and implicit knowledge silos.

In this talk, we describe a social network infrastructure currently in use in a number of corporations and the way in which we are integrating the notion of project as an integral part of the system. We also discuss how such combination of formal/informal knowledge management can be an essential feature of collaborative work in corporations and development efforts in general.