Message from the Organizers of the Workshop on Social and Personal Computing for Web-Supported Learning Communities

SPeL 2008

The Internet has been revolutionizing and changing not only the way we communicate, access information and conduct businesses, but also the way we learn. Online learning is moving from a centralized, institution-based system to a decentralized and informal creation and sharing of knowledge. Social software (in the form of blogs, wikis, podcasts, media-sharing services...) has started to be used for e-learning purposes, helping to create novel learning experiences. In the world of pervasive Internet, learners are also evolving: the so-called "digital natives" want to be in constant communication with their peers, they expect an individualized instruction and a personalized learning environment.

The learning community can be modeled as a social network, where members interact and learn together, creating and sharing resources. The study of Web-supported learning communities implies a highly interdisciplinary approach, involving knowledge not only from ICT fields (such as Web computing, agents, mobile and ubiquitous computing) but also from sociology, educational psychology, organizational and behavioral theories.

The goal of this workshop is to deal with current research on social and personalization aspects in Web-supported learning communities. We hope that the workshop will be a fruitful meeting for researchers coming from various fields, providing a forum for discussing new trends in the areas of online learning communities and social networks.

Organizers
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