What Is a Community?

Purpose

The purpose of a community in the Porthole is to provide groups of members with similar interests and goals with a secure area to be used as a social networking tool to share and distribute information.

Information can be distributed through wikis, blogs, and message boards.

Communities are administered and managed by different community owners/administrators. The available tools/applications, the look and feel and the functionality available to each member will be different. Some communities are open to all Porthole members whereas some communities are restricted to specific groups.

Here are a few examples of how specific groups on campus can effectively use the Porthole communities as social networking tools:

- A faculty member has a private community setup for his/her course. The professor is using a discussion board to have online interactive discussions with students.

- A departmental administrator has a number of policies and procedures which need to be updated on a regular basis and shared among their administrative team. Using a secured community, the administrator is making available policies and procedures to his team members through the web. The portal tools provide a quick and easy way to update and distribute information securely.

- A student club on campus is using a public/open community to promote awareness of the clubs activities on campus using a blog.

Consider how your group on campus could benefit from a customized portal community.