The UT SPEEDE Server: The Past, Present, and Future for Sending Electronic Transcripts

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Presenter:
Dave Stones, Registrar
Southwestern University, Georgetown, TX
stonesd@southwestern.edu
Filling in for Shelby Stanfield, Registrar, UT Austin
Credits for most of this PPT go to...

- Angela Svoboda, Director of SIS, UT Austin
- Tim Tashjian, Associate Director of SIS, UT Austin
Standards for Electronic Educational Documents

• AACRAO task force that later became the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee was created in 1988. SPEEDE = Standardization of Postsecondary Education Data Exchange. ExPRESS is K-12 component.

• AACRAO SPEEDE committee works to develop and implement standards for electronic data exchange of student transcripts, admission applications, and other educational records

• Serves as a liaison to standards-setting organizations

(http://www.aacrao.org/news/speede.cfm)
• PESC (Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council) – established in 1997
• Mission: lead the establishment and adoption of data exchange standards in education. . . enable the improvement of institutional performance and foster collaboration across educational communities in order to lower costs, improve service, and attain system interoperability

Motivation for UT Server

- Wanted simple yet secure way to send SPEEDE/ExPRESS transcripts via the Internet (EDI)
- Support institutional choice of e-mail attachment, FTP, PGP encryption, delivery parameters.
- Develop a trusted system whereby schools/organizations registered (and thereby eliminate cost hurdles)
- Work like a hub – outbound delivery, rather than mailbox.
- 1995 – UT Austin SPEEDE Server put into service
• UT SPEEDE Server adheres to national standards. Can work with vendors using the same standards
• UT SPEEDE Server is PCI (Payment Card Industry) compliant (via ApplyTexas applications)
• UT SPEEDE Server is FREE to use
• UT SPEEDE Server website has a FAQ to get you started sending/receiving
  • [http://registrar.utexas.edu/speede/docs/speede-faq.html](http://registrar.utexas.edu/speede/docs/speede-faq.html)
  • Protocols: SFTP, FTPS, FTP+PGP, Email+PGP (GPG)
1999-2000 Senders by State and Province

Total
207
2007-2008 Senders by State and Province

Total
305
1999-2000 Receivers by State and Province

Total 249
2007-2008 Receivers by State and Province

Total 393
UT Austin Server

- 6 millionth transcript was delivered in Jan 2010. - (earlier Texas ETN schools had pd $1 per transcript in VAN charges)
- 158,000 transcripts delivered during June 2009 alone.
- Over 21 million total transactions (including acknowledgements, apps, requests, test scores)
- 858,000 transcripts in 2008 – up 19% from 2007.
- 1,071,864 transcripts in 2009 – up another 25%
USERS of SPEEDE/ExPRESS

- Regular high volume statewide via Server in AR, BC, FL, IA, OR, TN, TX.
- High volume also in AZ, CA, NC, NJ, SC, VA, to AMCAS.
- Recent movement in AL, GA (XML), MS.
- See monthly usage reports for Server at UT Austin SPEEDE website.
- Most significant volume is associated with statewide movements.
- State networks in CA, FL, NC, NJ, OH, ON
- Some (San Jose State, U Md) use state network AND UT Server
- High school explosion in AR, FL, TX.
TS189 Applications

- In 1998 the SPEEDE server began transmitting applications for admission (The Texas Common Application – renamed ApplyTexas in 2004), using EDI transaction set TS189.
- Q&E-type software included, so build flat file and allow print – without translation software. ➔ Java
- 102+ Texas schools are registered to receive applications for admission
- In January 2010, the UT SPEEDE Server delivered over 138,000 apps for admission
- Other states could deliver TS189 applications.
In 2000 the SPEEDE server began transmitting test scores. First SAT, followed by GRE and TOEFL.

Four schools currently receive EDI electronic test scores through the SPEEDE server:

- University of South Carolina
- University of Northern Iowa
- University of British Columbia
- University of Texas at Austin

So,...No more stacks of Fed Ex paper emergency score reports!
TREx – Texas Record Exchange – HS

Success Story

State Legislature mandated in HB 1, 2006

• TxEdAgency RFO (Request For Offer) November, 2006
  – Legislation and RFO are to benefit k-12 trading of academic record . . . Colleges and universities benefit too
  – 8.11.1. Electronic Transcript Standards
  – 8.11.2. University of Texas at Austin SPEEDE server
  – 8.4.4. Transcript transmissions

• NTC (National Transcript Center) awarded TEA contract (http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/HB1/StuRecExc/RFOTREx.pdf)
TREx Progress

• 109,000+ Texas h.s. transcripts transmitted to colleges in Texas since TREx Sept 2007-Mar 2010, but first year was very light.

• Approximately 1900 public Texas high schools in Texas

• Uses UT Server for Delivery

• HS coding conventions in Java Q&E to help w. print.

• Could be replicated in other states

• UT Austin SPEEDE web pages have TREx Support Section
XML is Coming

- XML sending and receiving
- As of 2008, 43 schools registered to send/receive XML transcripts (1085 EDI)
- Most are in Georgia
- Why not more?
- Because no translator yet. Schools must choose to be EDI schools or XML school . . . More choose EDI
- EDI and XML WILL coexist.
- Banner XML work should expand base of schools which can send.
Q&E – Downloadable and Free. Receive, print, acknowledge.

- SPEEDE Quick ‘n’ Easy Software
  - Rewrite of transcript version
  - Desktop software developed in 96-97 in DBase3+, compiled in Clipper (DOS environment)
  - Schools unable to write automated routines for processing EDI can use to print transcripts
  - Rewritten in 07-08 in Java for upkeep purposes
  - The new copy was the only one enhanced for TREx
• Future
  1. XML to EDI translations
  2. EDI to XML translations
  3. PDF with embedded XML
  4. PDF document transmission
• XML to EDI translation
  • The Crosswalk – AACRAO SPEEDE Committee
  • UT Austin currently working on implementing an XSLT translation based on input from Oregon and Texas A&M, on the UT SPEEDE server
  • XSLT done – getting processing machinery ready
  • Pilot Underway
  • Will open for testing AS-IS – feedback expected
• EDI to XML translation – very early efforts underway
Steps for XML to EDI translation

1. Development of XSLT translator to EDI – done
2. Getting XSLT functioning to our satisfaction in the UT SPEEDE server environment - done
3. Build registrant table option for selecting parallel testing of the translator
4. Limited pilot among AACRAO SPEEDE Comm mbr schools nearly complete. To be opened up soon.

- May always run in parallel (UT SPEEDE Server may always provide the original along with the translation)
- Recipients will designate translation selection
PDF with embedded XML

PESC PDF/XML workgroup convened at PESC Summit October, 2008

• Chaired by Jim Bouse, U. of Oregon and Armando Rodriguez, XAP Corporation
• UT Austin is part of this effort
• What does this buy us?
  • PDF sender can embed XML; receiver may read and interpret
PDF document transmission

- Implementation of PESC batch schema may allow for this
- May require some additional agreements on standards within the schema for other document types
- What does this buys us?
  - Allows the UT SPEEDE Server to transmit with an “envelope” model
UT Austin Traffic – College

- UT Austin stats
  - Electronic transcript account for about 15% of the total outbound traffic
  - Of the remaining 85%, about half are issued to a 3rd party and about half are issued directly to a student
  - Received electronic transcripts are processed by computer, saving coding, data entry, staff time, and time to render decisions.
  - This is the benefit to UT Austin, which offers this as a free service to the rest.
UT Austin Automation w. TReX

- What has UT Austin’s Office of Admissions gained by receiving electronic data instead of images or paper?
  - Use the TEA course number and compute course credit (including deficiencies)
  - update the high school code, received date, graduation year/semester
  - note credit for AP courses (Math, Science)
  - update rank and class size
HS Transcript Benefits

- Staff processes about 24 transcripts per hour (coding, logging, imaging)
- The Stamp (recording units on the paper)
  - 5800 electronic h.s. transcripts received at UT Austin (8/2009 – 3/2010); about 17%
- This year, about 240 hours worth of work
- Next year . . .
• For more information:
  • http://registrar.utexas.edu/speede/
  • http://registrar.utexas.edu/speede/docs/speede-faq.html

• Questions?