

WebCT Vista Training Strategy: a Consortium Perspective

Doug Hyché

Project Manager, Emerging Instructional Technology
Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia

Robby Ambler

WebCT Vista Institutional Administrator, Georgia Southern University

David Lloyd

WebCT Vista Domain Administrator/DBA, Georgia Southern
University



Expectations

When you walk away today you will have ...



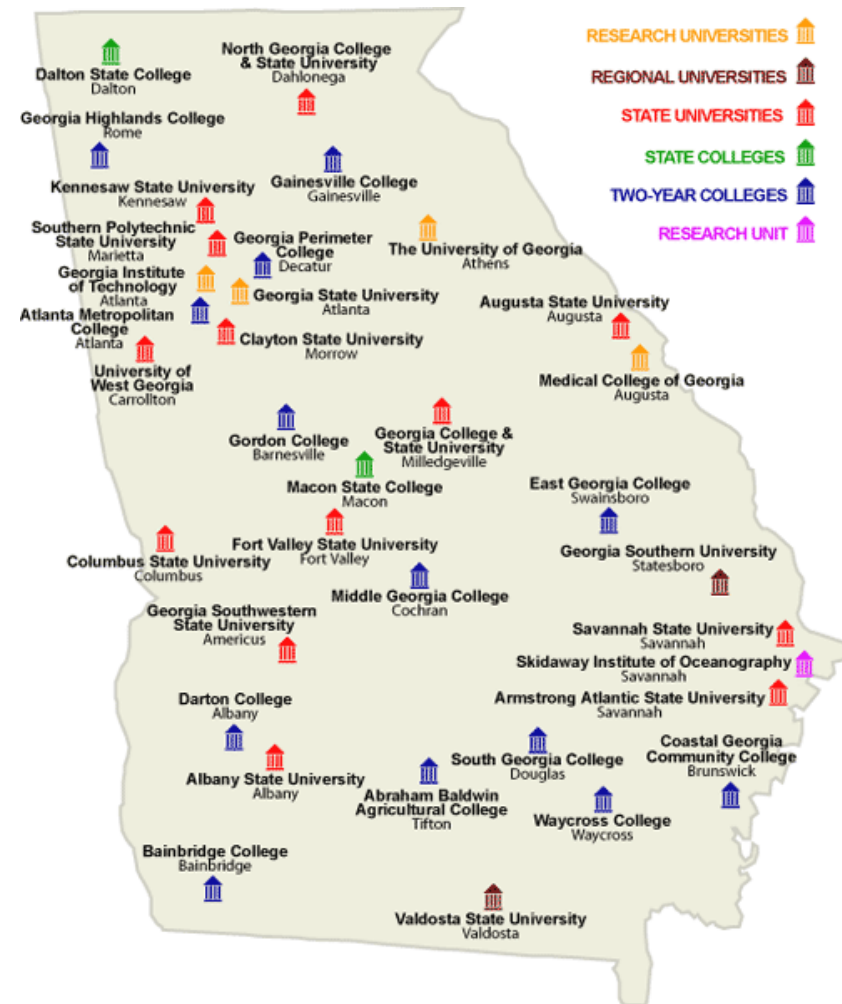
- A General Understanding of the GeorgiaVIEW Project
- Knowledge of the training opportunities available to institutions in the consortium
- Knowledge of the Strategic Partnership between the University System of Georgia and Georgia Southern University



Background

Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia

Oversees 34 Public
Colleges & Universities
of Georgia and the
Public Libraries of the
159 counties.

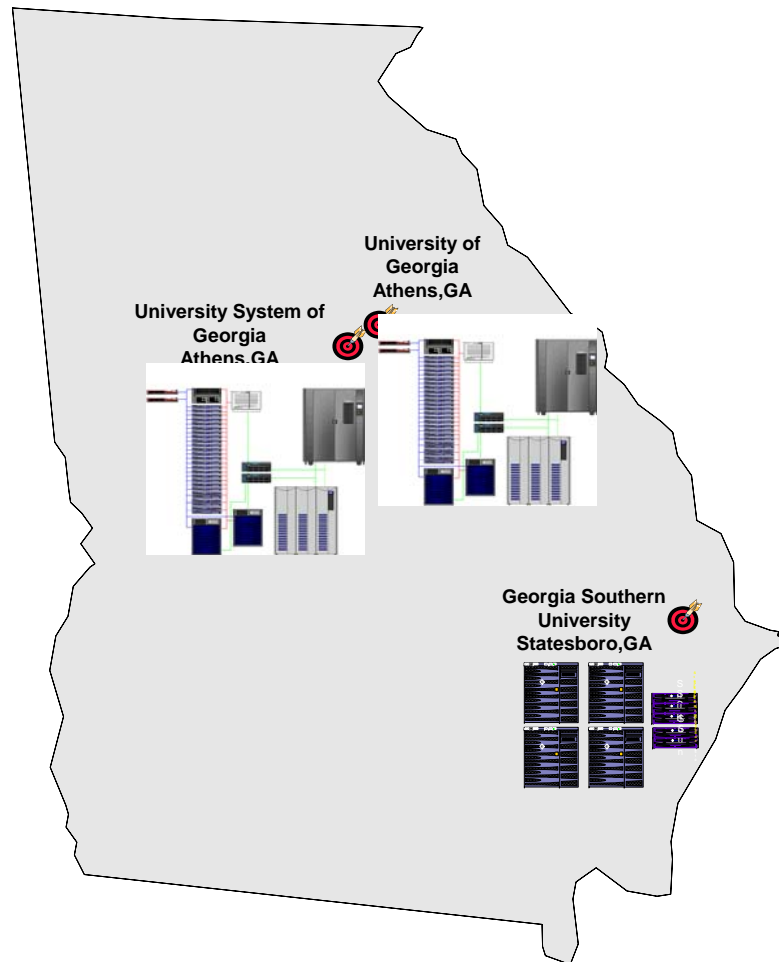


Background

- The Board oversees 34 institutions: four research universities, 2 regional universities, 13 state universities, 2 state colleges, and 13 two-year colleges. These institutions enroll more than 250,000 students and employ more than 9,500 faculty and 35,000 employees to provide teaching and related services to students and the communities in which they are located.



3.x Infrastructure



- 2 Production Sites
- 1 Testing and Training Site

Building a Strategic Partnership

- Leverage the resources of a University System Institution
- Proven track-record in supporting Online Learning Endeavors (Functional/Support/IT)
- Willingness to provide services/resources to the University System
- Flexibility



Nurturing a Strategic Partnership

- Regular Communication
- Quarterly Strategic Meetings
- Joint Decision-Making
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Standard Business Practices
- Flexibility, Flexibility, Flexibility



Sandbox

- Sandbox was released in Feb 05
 - This instance is the initial window to new versions and features and functionality
 - Helps create new, updated training materials
 - Test PowerLinks
 - Used to create scripts for testing
 - Environment may go down at any time
 - We can blow it up



Training Environment

- Training was released in June 05
 - Custom scripts provide easy creation of sections and enrollments
 - Independent training
 - No development
 - Further testing of PowerLinks
 - Repository for training documentation and templates
 - Training materials are both WebCT official or in-house developed



Train the Trainer Approach



WebCT Certified Trainer Opportunity



- Private offering of WebCT's official program
- Three week online course plus three day face to face evaluation
- Opportunity offered to thirty institutional personnel
- Implemented 50 / 50 cost sharing model

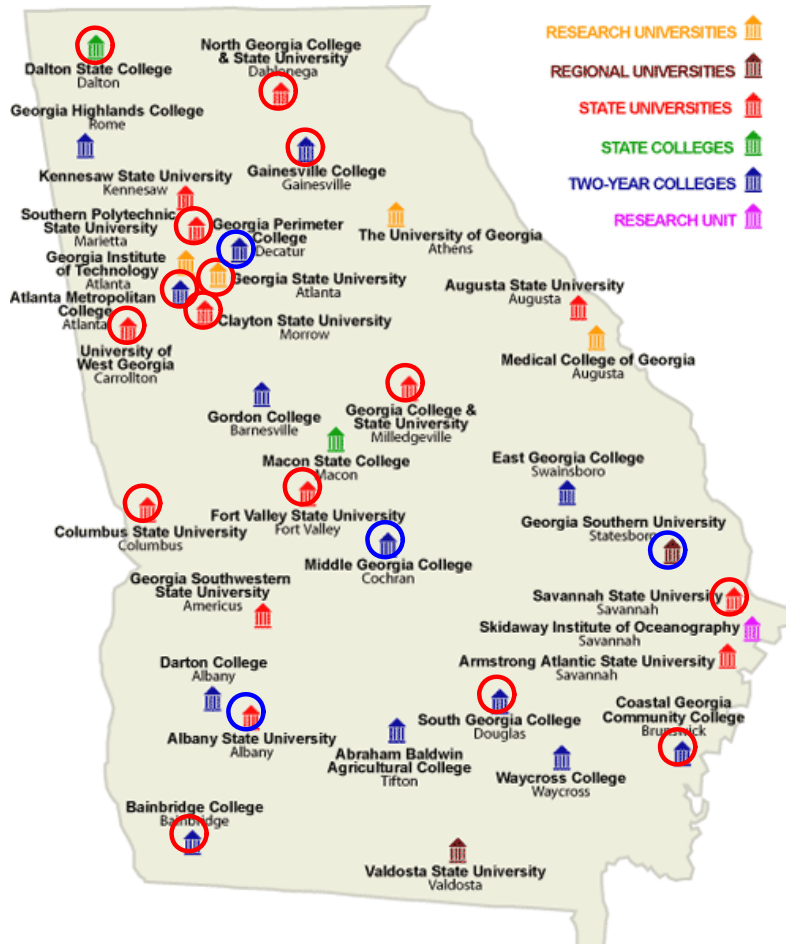


Benefits

- The opportunity provided maximum creditability for our training programs
- Group setting offered synergy among attendees
- Pool of certified trainers offers us resources for the entire state
- Better equipped institutions for their implementations
- Enhanced our relationship with WebCT



WebCT Certified Trainer Distribution



○ One WebCT Certified Trainer

○ Multiple WebCT Certified Trainers



WebCT Certified Trainer Opportunity - Images

WebCT
IMPACT 2005
7th Annual WebCT User Conference



Creating A More Educated Georgia

Institutional Administrator Certification Program



- Still in planning phase, in collaboration with WebCT
- Developed by WebCT
- Customized by University System of Georgia
- Fully online portion and hands-on sample institution
- Required of all system institutional administrators



Annual WebCT Vista Institutional Admin Meeting



- November 12th, 2004
- Georgia Southern University
- 45 Representatives from 29 Institutions
- Discussed Fundamentals – Project Organization, Expectations, Roles and Responsibilities, Communication Channels
- Annual timeline: second meeting planned for November 2005



Lessons Learned

- An Opportunity to Meet Face to Face/Networking
- Distribute and Discuss Standard Practices
- Introduce Participants to the Testing and Training Site
- Discuss Roles and Responsibilities



Communication Channels

- Program/Project Teams
- Listservs (VAT-L, VISN-L, *VAT-CERT*)
- Weekly Institutional Call, Focused Institutional Call
- Week in Review
- WebCT – Continuous Relationship
- GAVIEW Site, SITCAP
- WebCT Vista Announcement Mailer
- Events/Meetings/Trainings
- Newsletter – In Planning Phase



Listservs

- **VAT-L – Vista Admin Team**
 - **Purpose:** To communicate system announcements and other technical and functional information necessary for administrative procedures to all WebCT Vista Institutional Administrators, Secondary and Tertiary Contacts. This list is also utilized for WebCT Vista functionality discussions by the Institutional Administrator Community. This list should not be used for communicating production down/production critical issues.
 - **Members:** All WebCT Vista Institutional Administrators, Secondary Contacts, Tertiary Contacts, BOR
- **VISN-L – Vista Institutional Support Network**
 - **Purpose:** To share questions, discussions, suggestions, tips, tricks, and pedagogical approaches related to WebCT Vista in the greater USG Community.
 - **Members:** Vista Institutional Administrators, Secondary Contacts, Tertiary Contacts, Campus Support Staff, Campus Training Staff, Faculty Members, Instructional Technologists, Librarians, Other Technical Staff
- **VAT-CERT – Next Steps**



Contact Info

- Doug Hyche
 - doug.hyche@usg.edu
- Robby Ambler
 - rambler@georgiasouthern.edu
- David Lloyd
 - dlloyd@georgiasouthern.edu
- GaVIEW Site:
 - <http://alt.usg.edu/gaview/index.phtml>

