



HOW SFU IMPLEMENTED THE VISUAL SCHEDULE BUILDER AND VALIDATION FUNCTIONALITY

SESSION 5053

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PRESENTERS



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SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Established in 1965, SFU has become Canada's leading comprehensive university with vibrant campuses in BC's largest municipalities.



PEOPLESOFT VERSION 9.0

PeopleTools 8.54
Visual Schedule Builder 3.0

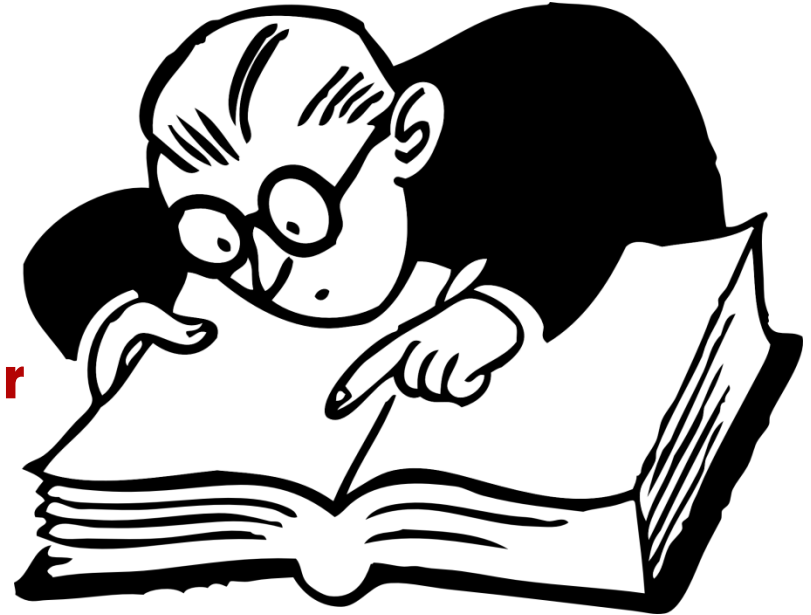
TERMINOLOGY

PeopleSoft

- SIMS
- goSFU
- SIS

Visual Schedule Builder

- VSB
- mySchedule



PEOPLESOFT VERSION 9.0

PeopleTools 8.54
Visual Schedule Builder 3.0

...SO, WHAT DID WE DO?

Integrated Validation Functionality
+
Visual Schedule Builder



PEOPLESOFT VERSION 9.0

PeopleTools 8.54
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...SO, WHY DID WE DO IT?

Enhance the student experience

Course access and visibility

Advisor functionality

Enhance enrollment

Analytics

PEOPLESOFT VERSION 9.0

PeopleTools 8.54

Visual Schedule Builder 3.0

...SO WHAT ARE WE GOING TO LEARN?

The VSB/Validation project was a large scale, student facing software integration that launched for Fall 2017 enrollment.

- 1. COMMUNICATION**

How we gained buy-in and marketed the software

- 2. TECHNICAL/TESTING**

The trial and tribulations of the integration process

- 3. NEXT TIME...**

Lessons learned

Let's not complicate our relationship by trying to communicate with each other.



your  cards
someecards.com

COMMUNICATION

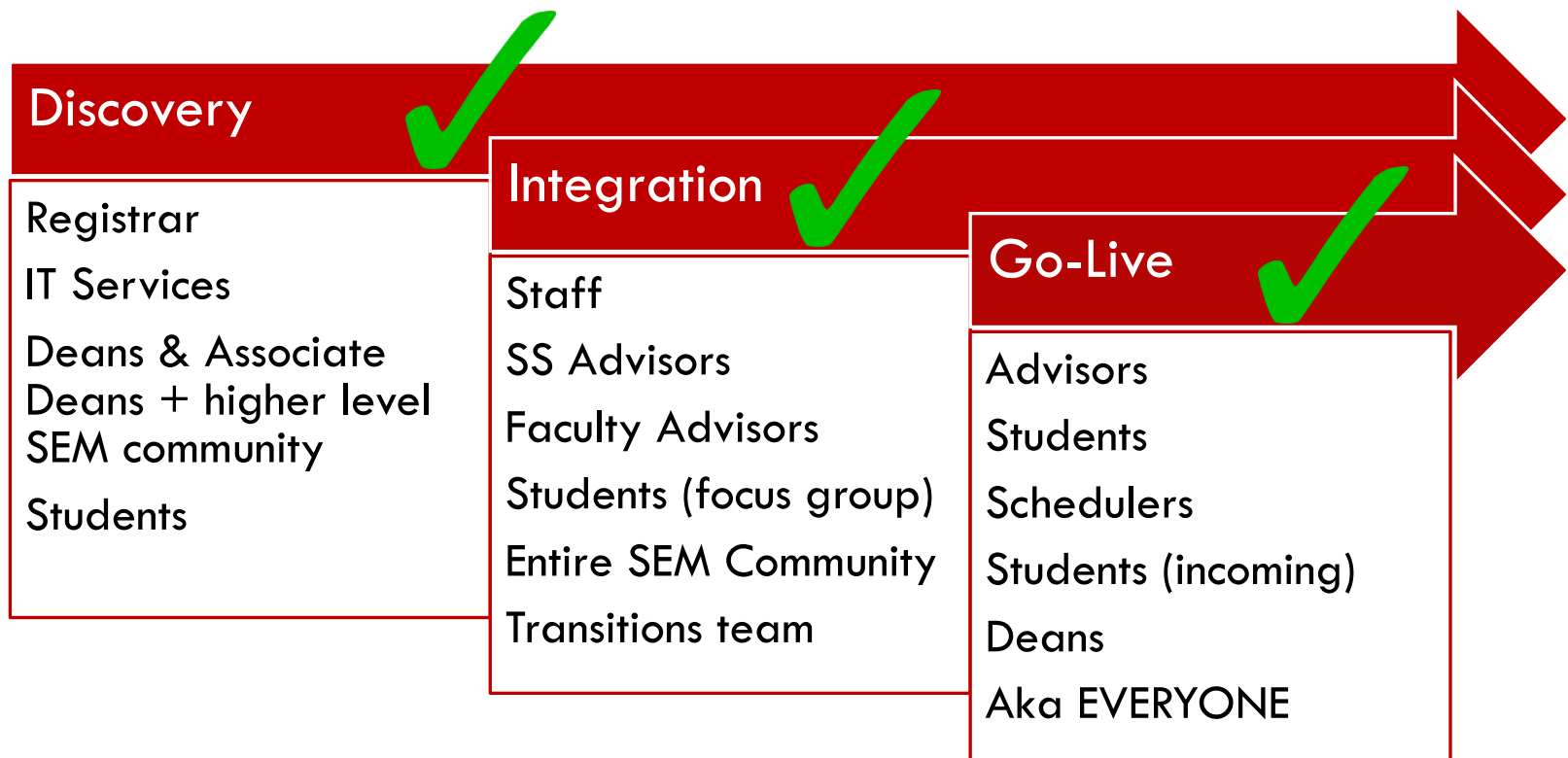
How to gain buy-in and
market your software

A red silhouette of a person stands below a large, colorful cloud of speech bubbles. Each bubble contains a white icon representing various aspects of life, including family, work, leisure, and technology.

The result?

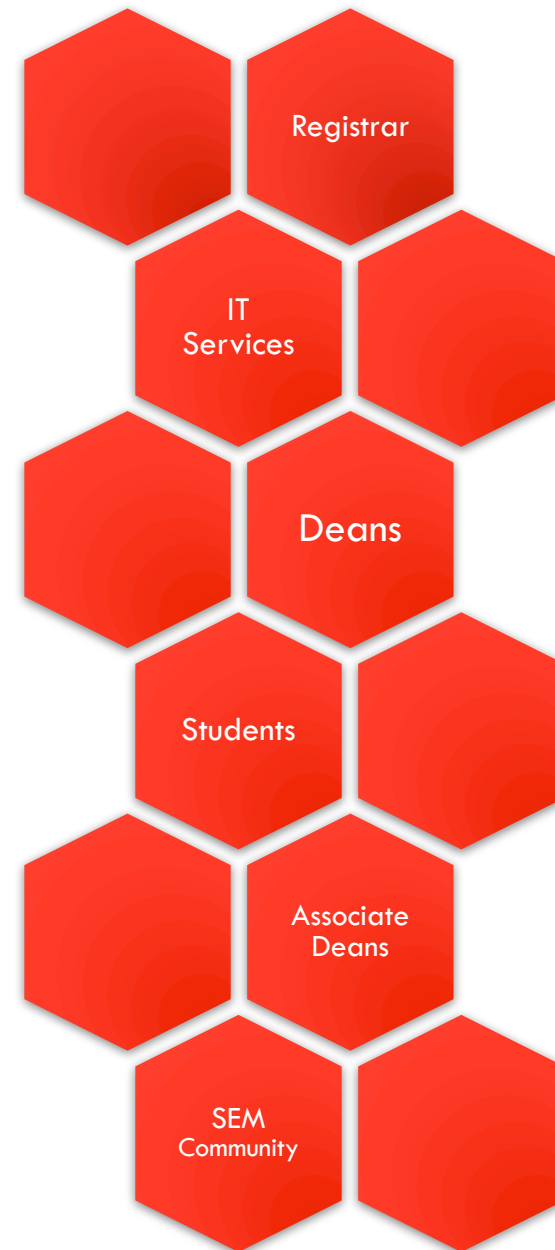
People **LOVED** the product, felt like they **KNEW** the product and **BELIEVE** in the product.

COMMUNICATION



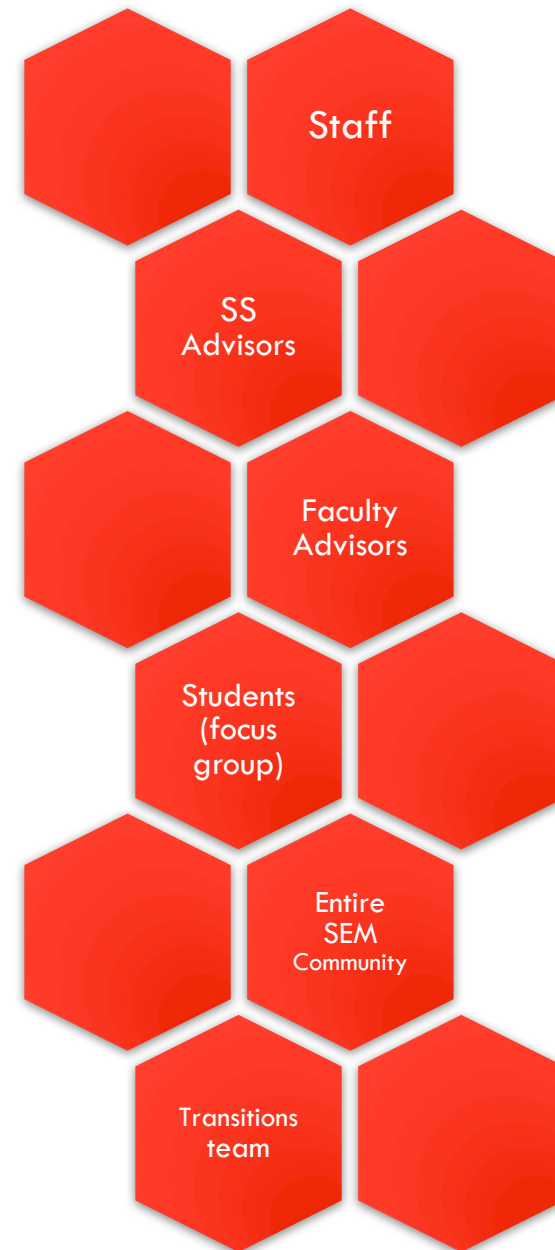
DISCOVERY

- Provided a value to the community (specifically SEM)
- Registrar, Deans, Associate Deans
- Noted the larger need we were trying to address
 - I.e. Is this part of a bigger plan?
- Address faculty fears
- Investigate what other schools have done (how is this tool useful?)



INTEGRATION

- Value to the community (wider SEM community)
- Get student buy-in
- Timelines (what term, who, when?)
- How?
- Mitigate fears/myths



INTEGRATION



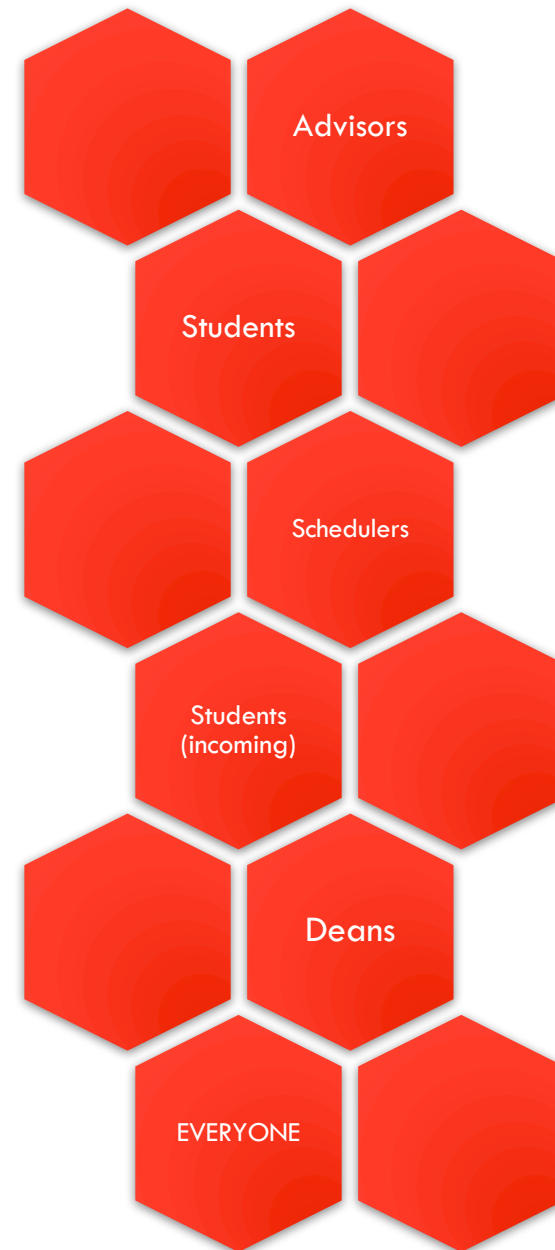
Current students got to experience the new enrollment system during testing:

- **19** current students 'played' in mySchedule
- **95%** of users preferred this to the current enrollment process
- **75%** identified this was a need and were already manually creating their visual schedules via excel or other software
- We changes the layout of VSB because of our students!

GO-LIVE AKA THE PUSH

Some examples:

- Enrollment appointment emails
- Embedding in online orientation (fully integrated for Spring 2018)
- Push notifications
- TV screens
- Social media (held back until Spring 2018)
- SFU Newsletter
- Sign-in portal
- Ambassador/Tour guides
- Training
- Committee meetings/forum
- Video (made in-house)

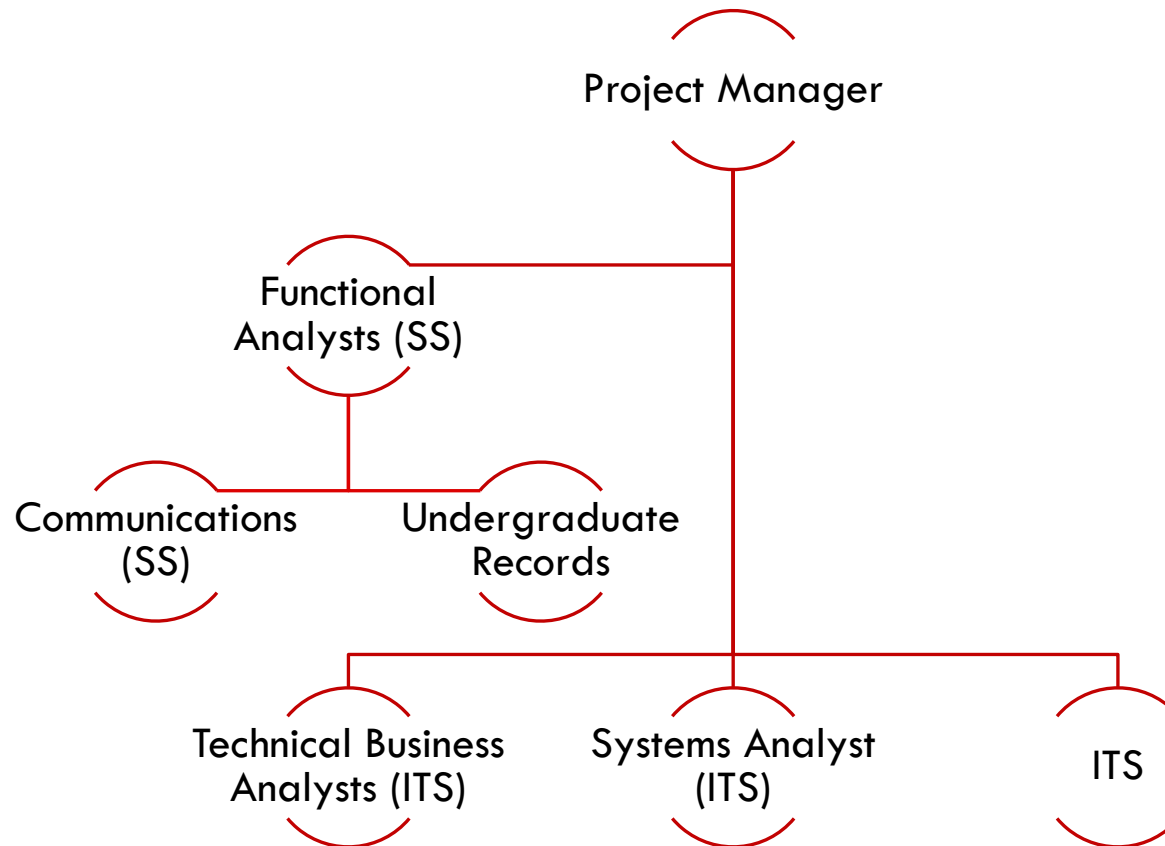




TECHNICAL/TESTING

The trial and tribulations of the integration process.

TECHNICAL



“WHAT HAPPENED”

-Hilary Clinton

We're highly customized! Terminology, DB2, and needs were high!

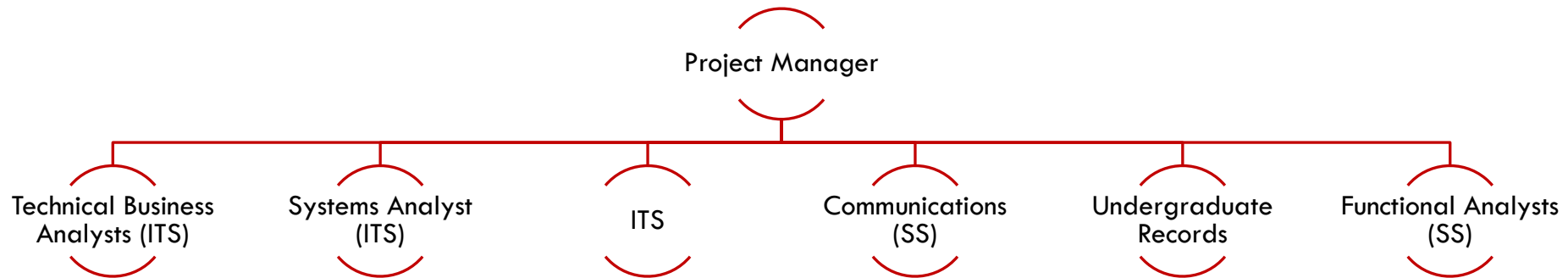
- 1) Integration delays (set us back nearly a month)
- 2) Project time and commitment was underestimated
- 3) Lack of documentation was a challenge
- 4) Number of customizations was high
- 5) UAT/Testing revealed SFU eccentricities
- 6) Roles and responsibilities became murky
- 7) Load testing

The trial and tribulations of the integration process.

WHICH RESULTED IN...

- A moving go/no go date
- We had to limit customizations
- The PM's time went from 25% to nearly 100% on the project
- The functional team worked 8am – 8pm for several weeks
- The technical team put in hours of overtime and created a war room

AND WE ADJUSTED, TOGETHER





WE ADJUSTED OTHER THINGS TOO...

**BUT LAUNCHED ON-TIME...
WITH SOME SMALL ADJUSTMENTS**

MYSCHEDULE

SFU mySchedule

Sean McKenna

SELECT COURSES

Term: 2017 Fall

Campuses: All (6) [Select...](#)

Select Course [Select](#)

☒ **BUS 216** [Burnaby Mountain Campus](#) [Select...](#)

Introduction to Essentials of Business Communications

[Try all classes \(1\)](#)

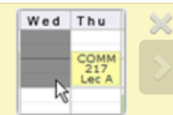
Description: Students will learn and apply the fundamentals of effe...[Show More](#)

[Clear this Search](#) [VSB Analytics](#) [Help](#)

RESULTS

TIP #1/4

Click and drag to indicate when you do not want to have classes. Schedules that avoid these times will be prioritized.



- [Print schedule](#)
- [Create Share Link](#)
- [Add to Favourites](#)

Sort preference: [None](#)

Generated Results

1 of 1

- Include schedules containing:
- ☐ Closed classes (□)
 - ☒ Wait Listed classes (▲)
 - ☒ Distance Education classes (◌)
 - ☒ On-campus classes

[Proceed to Next Step](#)

[Validate Course Cart](#)

i You are not enrolled for this schedule.

BUS 216 2017 Fall: Sep 5 - Dec 17
Regular Academic Session
Introduction to Essentials of Business Communications
Tue Sep 5 - Dec 4: 5:30 PM to 8:20 PM

LEC E100

Class Number: 8215
Seats: 14/35
Wait List: 0/50

Burnaby Mountain Campus
In Person
West Mall Centre - WMC3253
Colleen Stevenson
3.0 Units

Final exam cancelled July 10, 2017.
REQ-Students with credit for BUS 360W may not receive further credit for this course.

Total Units: 3.0

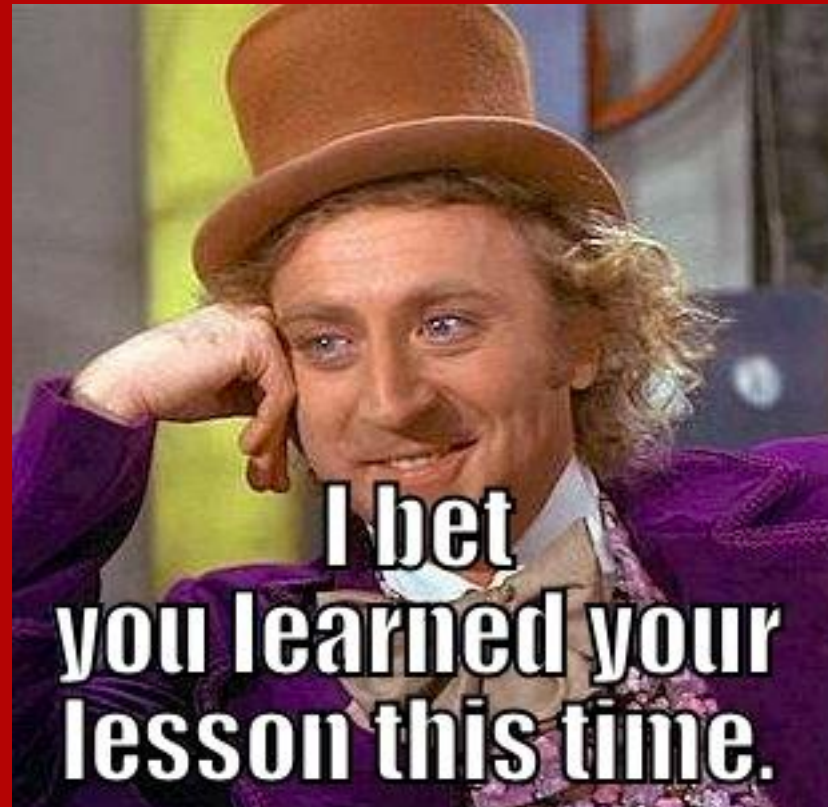
	Mon Sep 11	Tue Sep 12	Wed Sep 13	Thu Sep 14	Fri Sep 15
11 00					
12 pm					
1 00					
2 00					
3 00					
4 00					
5 00					
6 00					
7 00					

WHAT ABOUT VSB?



- 1) Integration delays (DB2)
- 2) Number of customizations impacted time on technical pieces
- 3) System improvements were added during UAT
- 4) They learned more about PeopleSoft!
- 5) Load testing was a challenge

The trial and tribulations of the integration process.



NEXT TIME

Lessons learned.

LESSONS LEARNED

Unique database? Expect delays



Know your system capacity, customizations and be upfront with the vendor



Food = Commitment/buy-in



Vanilla is best, but don't be afraid to add sprinkles



LESSONS LEARNED

Unique database? If access can be provided, time can be saved...



Check application servers, RAM (now have a clearer idea of system requirements)



Limit your customizations (if possible)



The more vanilla, the easier it is



LESSONS LEARNED

When doing customizations, consider other ways of how the services might be used. Other schools have implemented business logic in their portal, for example: Add a button handler to do some sort of business logic.

...When doing a customization, make sure you put [whatever it is] in the appropriate spot instead of the easy location (especially with respect to any relating to the enrollment engine).

-Sean Weeks

THANK YOU TO THE TECHNICAL TEAM

A BIG

01110100 01101000 01100001
01101110 01101011 00100000
01111001 01101111 01110101

to the SFU/VSB Technical Teams

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

ANY QUESTIONS?

PRESENTERS



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THANK YOU!

