EPSCoR
Drupal Reporting

ER-core Update
EPSCoR PD/PA Meeting
May 20, 2014
ER-core Adoption

- NM, RI and UT have full on Track-1 implementations
- HI is using a prior customized version
- AK and NH are using it administratively
- SD is using it for their side of a new Track-2
- DE has abandoned the Drupal platform
- NV attempted implementation last Fall
- 2 LTER sites, 1 Homeland Security COE have adopted this for their reporting and project management
Feedback

Technical
• Need IT support for successful installation
• Customization to meet Jurisdiction-specific needs
• There are some bugs
• Mid-stream core updates can be difficult

Administrative
• Standardize EPSCoR Data Definitions
• Participant buy-in is critical
• Data collection has been streamlined
• Reduce Cost and Effort for Individual Jurisdictions
• Is a useful management tool
Development Process

- EPSCoR Jurisdiction Servers
- Prioritized List
- Development Team
- Functional Review
- Development Workstation (NM)
Challenges

• Growing network of users
  • Share common ER-core software
  • Each tied to their own installation
• Sharing bug fixes across all users
• What is ER-core vs. jurisdiction customization
• Improving documentation
  • Technical manual
  • User manual
  • Built-in help screens
• Responding to changes in reporting requirements
Open Source Software

• Maintenance depends on the input and effort of the user community
  • NM is hosting the development site and sandbox
  • AK is hosting the ER-Core website
  • HI has significant investment in the code development

• Jurisdictional input
  • Identification of bugs and fixes
  • Updates/edits to online help and software manuals
  • Share tools that may be useful to other jurisdictions
ER-core Life Cycle

• Current Version 2.01 (alpha)
  • Developers incorporate reported bug fixes
  • Add new tools at the direction of Admin

➢ Release updated version each year

• New awardees install latest version
  • Customize for their jurisdiction
  • Incorporate reported bug fixes
  • Develop new tools as needed
  • Use the current software for the life of the award

➢ Upgrade to newer version with new award
Challenge

What’s needed to maintain software and assist users?

- Development site & ER-core website hosting
- 0.5 FTE Drupal Programmer
  - Correct/document bug fixes in ER-core sites
  - Update ER-core module
  - Consult on new installations
  - Maintain ER-core website
- 0.25 FTE Administrative Coordinator
  - Administrative interface to Drupal Programmer
  - Organize user conference calls/meetings
  - Monitor/maintain ER-core website
  - Other duties depending on sustainability model chosen
- Estimated Cost per year: ~$75k*

*Assuming 40% IDC
Sustainability

• Subscription Model
  • Annual fee to users: cost/number of users
    • 5 Users @ ~$15k each
    • 15 users @ ~5k each

• Professional Workshop Model
  • 2-day workshop for admin and developers
  • Best practices and tools
  • Drupal boot camp

• Other Alternatives?
Discussion