

New Features of O3 Collaboration

O3 Collaboration is a suite of collaborative tools and professional networking solutions developed by and for the research and education community in Ontario. O3 is a place where researchers, educators and students can connect to the minds and resources they need to work faster and more effectively. Provided by ORION with assistance from CANARIE (Canada's advanced research and innovation network), O3 offers members of ORION-connected institutions and affiliated groups a secure, private online space to share information around research projects, teaching initiatives and other collaborations.

O3 features a suite of tools that members can activate based on their collaboration needs, including blogs, document sharing and versioning, photo albums, wikis and discussion forums. Users can also embed other Web 2.0 applications such as YouTube channels, Flickr photo streams and Twitter feeds and even existing blogs on other platforms such as Wordpress.

Now O3 is introducing new and stronger capabilities to support the work of researchers and educators. These include a new desktop application that allows users to seamlessly and securely save and download documents from the desktop directly to their O3 Group Space. Below is a complete list of the new enhancements.

BlackBerry Application

Community members can now access and contribute content to their online group spaces not only from a standard web browser, but also from their BlackBerry. Members are able read blog articles, browse recent discussions, see and post comments, send and receive email notifications, search the community and access personal social profiles.

Desktop Application (Windows Only)

This new feature marries the flexibility of web-based software with the power of the desktop, allowing users to seamlessly and securely save and download documents right from the desktop directly to their O3 Group Space.

Calendar

The calendar now has a number of new features:

Select time zones for events

- Check box to mark all day events during creation
- Appearance updates to the calendar application
- Toggle through months from calendar landing page

Blogs

The landing page for the blogs application no longer shows "add channel" but rather simplifies its appearance with a '+' icon above the listed channels. Each blog channel now contains an archive of previous posts.

- "Add Channel" button replaced with '+' icon
- Appearance of blogs aggregate page updated
- Article archive appearance updated

Administrative Updates

Other updates in today's release relate to a highly requested feature to allow some administrative abilities to be assigned to members. This feature allows you to provide members with the ability to invite users to the community, approve join requests and manage non administrative groups.

Widgets & Pages

When editing a page, the area which contains widgets has a new appearance. This new layout reduces the space taken on the page by the widget area and adds a scroll left and right to display all available widgets. Administrators can now rename URLs for applications (e.g wiki, documents, blogs etc.)

For more information, please contact the O3 Community Manager, Gary Hilson, at 416-507-9860 ext. 232 or gary.hilson@orion.on.ca or visit www.othree.ca.



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