

## GlueX Portal Issues

The GlueX Collaboration, like many in particle physics, employs a number of web-based and controlled applications for the purpose of communication, decision-making and interaction on analysis and simulations. The key tools, in current use, are:

1. The management web site: [www.hallg.org](http://www.hallg.org) (at CMU).
2. The public web site: [www.gluex.org](http://www.gluex.org) (at IU).
3. The Wiki: [www.jlab.org/Hall-D/software/wiki/index.php/](http://www.jlab.org/Hall-D/software/wiki/index.php/) (at JLab).
4. The Portal: [portal.gluex.org](http://portal.gluex.org) (at UR).
5. The DocDB: a) public and b) private (at UR)
  - a. [www.argus.phys.uregina.ca/cgi-bin/public/DocDB/DocumentDatabase](http://www.argus.phys.uregina.ca/cgi-bin/public/DocDB/DocumentDatabase)
  - b. [www.argus.phys.uregina.ca/cgi-bin/private/DocDB/DocumentDatabase](http://www.argus.phys.uregina.ca/cgi-bin/private/DocDB/DocumentDatabase)
6. The openShop interface for Monte Carlo Submission. This runs at several sites (UConn, UR, etc). Its authentication is based on user certificates.

Among these, **the first two** consist largely of standard html pages and graphics and do not often require password access with the exception of certain parts of the management web site.

The **Wiki** requires group-wide password access (writer/\*\*\*\*\*) to view the pages and individual, user access to post to it.

The **Portal** requires user-based access for posting to ‘Forums’, ‘Pages’, ‘Decisions’, ‘Events’, ‘Image Galleries’, ‘Web links’, and ‘Stories’. The information on the ‘Events’, ‘Image Galleries’, ‘Web links’, and ‘Stories’ are viewable by anonymous users (the public).

Likewise, the **DocDB**, the main document handler for the GlueX Collaboration, has public and private access to the posted documents. The private access is group-wide, with the same group username and password as the Wiki (writer/\*\*\*\*\*). Our installation of DocDB also offers user-based features such as subscription for notification of postings classified by ‘Topics’, ‘Authors’, ‘Events’, and ‘Keywords’, as well as a ‘Watch this Document’ feature. All these send emails to the subscribed user when a document is posted that meets the user’s preferences.

Although the above collection meets the current needs of the Collaboration, there are several outstanding issues that, when resolved, can dramatically improve the efficiency of communications via posting and retrieval to these sites. The most important issues are:

- Universal GlueX Collaborators list. The list on the IU email server is different from that on the Portal.
- Clear definition of ‘roles’ where these are available: ‘authenticated’, ‘senior member’, ‘executive’, ‘reviewer’, ‘guest’, etc. The appropriate roles can be assigned to each user, thus automatically granting access (view, create, modify, delete) to areas of the Portal.

- Clear definition of ‘public’ and ‘private’ pages. Here, we desire to project information to the public yet need to maintain confidentiality on certain documents (i.e budget, sensitive discussions on the ‘Forums’, etc.).
- Merging of log-ins. User authentication via grid-like certificates issued by an accepted Certification Authority ( DOE Grids: [www.doegrids.org](http://www.doegrids.org) ) will allow a single point access to the user followed by transparent log in to other sites. An example would be a user logging into the Portal and then simply clicking over to the Wiki without having to enter a username or password. In this example, the system should allow a by-pass of the group-wide username/password (writer/\*\*\*\*\*) as well as the user-specific one for posting to the Wiki, once the user has logged into the Portal.

### **Proposal to the Collaboration and Action Items**

The author proposes that the GlueX Software Working Group investigate and discuss the above issues and agree on proposed solutions that should be forwarded to the GlueX Executive Group and Collaboration for ratification and implementation.

The following list serves as a starting point and guide to these deliberations.

1. Request that the official GlueX Collaboration list be updated every time a collaborator joins or leaves GlueX. The identical list will be used on the Portal for user-based access and on the IU email list server.
2. The desired types of ‘roles’ should be defined and assigned accordingly. The assignments may be done internally to working groups or may require approval by the Executive Group.
3. The access level for various sections of the Portal should be defined and implemented. The current scheme may need to be modified to achieve this.
4. Likewise, the access level for all documents on DocDB needs to be defined and implemented. The document type ‘public’ or ‘private’ is applied inconsistently across out 800+ documents, left largely to the decision of each author/submitter! Once the access level is decided, all documents information should be updated, for every document.
5. A larger task involves the single-point access and authentication across multiple sites. This effort can benefit from the experience in implementing user certificates for the openShop framework.
6. Once Action Item 1 is completed, the group-wide (writer/\*\*\*\*\*) access should have the password changed to a new one on both the Wiki and the DocDB.

This document is dynamic and will be modified following discussions and decisions within the Software Working Group.