ENSEMBLE UC BERKELEY CS4HS WORKSHOP FOCUS GROUP PROTOCOL

AUDIENCE: High School Computing Educators

SHARING THE VISION: The ENSEMBLE computing portal is an online community of computing educators, providing accessible and usable content and tools to support teaching and learning. A place to contribute, distribute and communicate about variety of different resources.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: The purpose of these focus groups will be to acquire information that useful to the ENSEMBLE development team in the ongoing website design.

FOCUS GROUP QUESTIONS (~1hr):

(for each of the questions, allow about 3 minutes apiece so we get through all questions)

Let's first look at our site as a *collection of resources* for you to use in your class: (~15m)

1. Currently, when you are searching for resources to use in a course, lesson or assignment, etc., where do you turn?
2. What resources do you have the most difficult time finding?
3. What formats might be most helpful to your teaching or to your students' learning? (e.g. videos, ppt slides, assignments, teaching strategies, etc.)

This questions were mostly looking at the site from the point of view of a *consumer* of content. Now let's look at it from the point of view of a *producer*: (~15m)

1. How many of you have wanted to share resources you've developed with others? How many actually have? Was it easy? What impediments did you find?
2. Do you post regularly to any online community (specialized communities, shared pictures, Facebook, etc.)? What content?
3. Do you ever go on to any site and rate what is there (e.g., Amazon, ebay, movie site, etc)? Do you ever leave a comment or posting? Why or why not?
4. Do you like ratings and comments from others? What value do they provide, if any? How do you use them?
5. Do you ever tag resources (to help with searching)? Why or why not?

Now let's look at it from the point of view of a community portal: (~15m)

1. Have you considered other group sites (ning, google/yahoo groups, LinkedIn, etc) and what are "killer features" they have that you love? Any features you hate?
2. How valuable do you consider the use of badges (or other rewards system) in building an on-line community? Do they motivate you to change behavior to earn these badges?
3. How, if at all, would participating in and contributing to an online community support you in your career advancement?

Now, we'd like you to describe the perfect collaborative portal. What are blue sky features that you'd like to see from this site? (~15m)