



Stellar

Stellar is a Learning Management System developed at MIT for managing the authoring and delivery of courses. It provides faculty with the ability to:

- Add and manage a wide variety of multimedia class materials without technical knowledge
- Manage class website membership automatically with official data from the Registrar, and become acquainted with students through photos from the Card Office
- Simplify administrative tasks by managing homework submissions and letting students choose sections on the class website
- Communicate easily with students through announcements, email, and threaded discussions

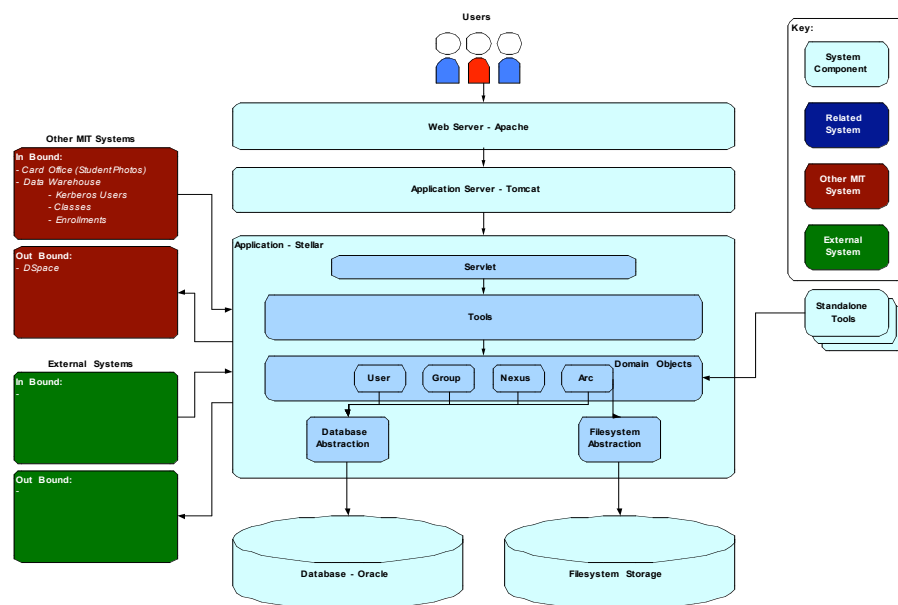
Stellar is available for use by all departments and faculty at MIT. For the Fall 2004 semester there are 293 class websites, which represents approximately 40% of all classes taught at MIT.

Stellar is a java-based application, primarily a web application delivered through Tomcat and the Apache web server. There is an abstraction for accessing the database and also for accessing the file system where course materials

are stored. On top of these abstractions is built a layer of domain objects. The domain objects contain reusable business logic and are accessed both by tools that are part of the online web application, and also by stand alone java programs which process feeds and other batch tasks.

Sakai is open source collaboration between several leading educational institutions, including MIT, to develop the next generation of educational software. Their goals include developing a common, open system for learning management. It is expected that over the next 12-24 months, parts of the Sakai toolset such as the grade book will be introduced at MIT. In the long term it is likely that functionality currently provided by Stellar will be superseded by similar functionality provided by Sakai, and that the Stellar application will gradually be replaced by an implementation of Sakai at MIT. More information on the Sakai project can be found at: <http://www.sakaiproject.org>

Stellar Logical Architecture Diagram



Stellar Physical Architecture Diagram

