PDS Usability Update

Engineering Node

August 14, 2007

http://pds.nasa.gov/
Usability Status

• Changes at the Nodes
  – Some changes because of my input
  – Some changes because of their users’ input
  – New interfaces (ODE & Rings multimission search, e.g.)

• Potentially changing usage patterns
  – Home page changes send more users to visit Node search engines?

• Weak PDS site relationships and branding
Proposed Ongoing Work

• Updated Node reviews to reflect Node web site changes
  – E.g., Atmospheres, Rings

• Continue UI design help for new tools

• Work with Nodes to attack highest priority/impact flaws
  – Maybe I was too nice on some flaws? Bump priority assessment?
  – Make more concrete suggestions: mockups
  – Help with implementation?
Proposed New Work

• Help fix weak PDS branding and unity:
  – Weak sense of relationship to other Nodes
  – Lack of sense of location
  – Navigation consistency
  – No PDS “look”
• Improve handoff between Home Page search and Node repositories
• Help Nodes cooperate with Google search
Sense of Location

Where am I in the PDS?

Getting back to “Home” - some options
PDS “Look”

- Consistent Clues That Your Site is Part of PDS
- Can Include Any/All Of:
  - Layout
  - Colors
  - Menu contents (or portion)
  - Search location
  - Logos
  - Header look and contents
- Can Include Elements from Other Brands
  - NASA & Institutions
  - But PDS-sane links! (no “NASA en Español”)

28 March 2006
Variations in NASA Branding

All from nasa.gov
Proposal

- Propose some visual options for consistent PDS branding
  - Common elements
  - Stronger sense of place
  - Way to get “home”
  - Use NASA logo/header elements
  - Include spot for institutional logo, if desired

- Plan
  - Present to UI WG Dec/Jan (don’t delay Home Page!)
  - Present to MC Jan/Feb 2008
  - MC can decide to proceed or not
  - Help Nodes transition Spring 2008