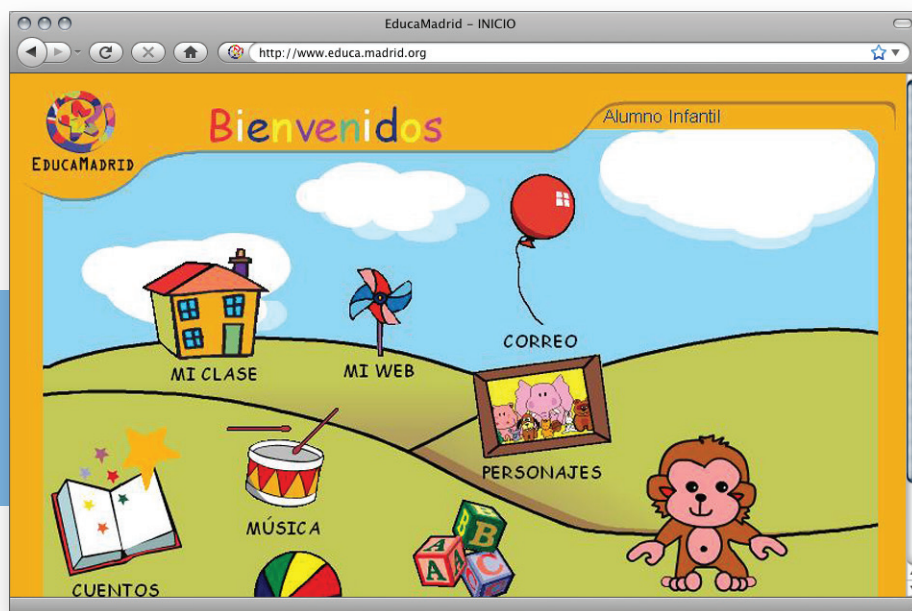# EducaMadrid

www.educa.madrid.org

> "Its open-source nature has made possible a big deal of changes and adaptation which would have been impossible or very costly with a commercial product."
>
> *GERMINUS*

EducaMadrid represents the Madrid, Spain school system, which accounts for over 500,000 students across 1,600 schools. EducaMadrid is sponsored by the Consejería de Educación de la Comunidad Autonoma de Madrid, an organization of the Spanish public administration.

CHALLENGE

The Madrid school system wanted to encourage communication and foster relationships within its classrooms and between different classrooms, grades, and schools. With 500,000 potential users to account for, the non-profit organization knew it needed a solution that could effectively serve and manage this large user base without the high price tag and per-user costs typical of most commercial applications. Taking its goals into account, a list of criteria was created with key points including:

- Ability to scale to the total number of users and students
- Flexible and customizable layouts, that change dependent on the user
- Access to community resources for all users

RESOLUTION

Germinus, a Liferay, Inc. partner in Spain, selected Liferay Portal for its flexibility and open standards. Leveraging Liferay's leading portal technology and hierarchical system of communities, the Madrid School System created an extranet comprising a set of websites with educational news and content, as well as an intranet with websites that were personalizeable based on user role and identity. For example, logged-in Teachers access a "desktop" displaying classroom materials. Students access a completely different UI that caters to their age and grade-specific learning needs. As the students progress to higher grades, their user interface becomes increasingly complex.

LIFERAY

Other notable accomplishments include:

- Implemented a Web builder that allowed for the easy creation of websites
- Established virtual communities with group chat, classroom email, and other collaborative feaures
- Used Liferay Portal's content management system to manage the different communities' documents and files
- Developed custom tools for the organization's specific needs in cluding a contextual help system and schools management function
- Integrated Liferay Portal with MvnForum
- Integrated with legacy applications built with struts

"EducaMadrid saved hundreds of thousands of dollars by implementing Liferay Portal," said Germinus. "With each portlet acting as a standalone web application, Liferay provided the means to extend functionality quickly and easily without huge refactoring costs."