Title: X3D Model Data Strategy for Navy Additive Manufacturing Digital Thread Report Date: 28 November 2018, Project Number (IREF ID): NPS-18-N380-A

Naval Postgraduate School (NPS), Modeling Virtual Environments and Simulation (MOVES)



MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA

X3D Model Data Strategy for Navy Additive Manufacturing (AM) Digital Thread

Report Type: Executive Summary and Final Report Period of Performance: 10/1/2017 – 9/30/2018

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Prepared for: OPNAV N415, USMC, NAVFAC, EXWC

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Research Sponsor Organization (if different): OPNAV N415 Research POC Name: James Pluta, OPNAV N415 Staff

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Summary

NPS has applied and integrated a wide range of open-source open-standards capabilities to support Navy and Marine Makers who are learning and applying 3D printing, also known as Additive Manufacturing (AM). Building on the work of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) 3D Print Exchange (3dprint.nih.gov), the X3D Model Exchange (ModelExchange.nps.edu) enables Navy and Marine Makers to learn how to find, share, produce, and print 3D models that impact the future of Navy and Marine operations. Whereas the NIH site is built using Drupal 7 with a "pipeline" for processing uploaded models, the Navy's X3D Model Exchange is developed with the latest version of the Drupal 8 Content Management System (CMS). This public-facing portal leverages the highly evolved NPS version-control repository (GitLab.nps.edu/ModelExchangeGroup) using best practices for agile developer operations (DevOps) to encourage broad partnerships and re-use. Security requirements are met through account management and Common Access Card (CAC) authentication of users. Version control ensures that all changes and incremental improvements are trackable, repeatable and fixable (if ever needed). Access control for administrators, developers, makers and the public ensures that models remain uncorrupted and only available to the appropriate community of users. This project reports on follow-on continuation of the design phase performed by preceding Naval Research Program (NRP) project NPS-17-244-A.

Keywords: 3D printing, additive manufacturing, community, digital thread, X3D graphics, Web3D

Background

Additive Manufacturing (AM), 3D printing and CAD export are critical for Navy maintenance. Rapid change continues to occur across the design, engineering, manufacturing, and production process - many products can now be fabricated using AM methods. Iterative design processes require close collaboration of all entities involved from design to production; with AM, the lines between these previously stove-piped steps become blurred. A need to design, test and adopt different maintenance workflow becomes a necessity in cases of preventive and corrective maintenance of mechanical components on Navy ships and aircrafts where such operations have major impact on operational readiness.

This project proposed to study and test elements that are identified as critical for effective deployment of AM in Navy operations, with specific emphasis on maintenance operations, while remaining sensitive to other Navy domains and activities where the use of AM can bring significant value. The overarching goal was to provide a comprehensive approach that would lead towards reduction of energy costs, mitigation of risks, as well as reduction of materials and human resources engaged in that process.

Inspired and aided by the open-source NIH Model Exchange project this project has developed a model exchange website and backend capabilities to enable secure contribution and sharing of AM models using the latest open source software. Related research work includes partnered efforts by Dr. Amela Sadagic on diffusion of innovation across Navy and Marine Corps. This tandem work has guided corresponding implementation of numerous specific aspects in Model Exchange (MX) design with respect to deployment, scalability, access, repeatability, and user value. Continued work appears fully feasible and is expected to provide fundamental long-term value.

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Findings and Conclusions

PHASE ONE: MODEL EXCHANGE PORTAL DESIGN

Year one of this project (from FY2017 NRP project NPS-17-N244-A) laid the basis for design and initial implementation. Despite personnel challenges, our group has persisted and continued evolving sophisticated work to develop and deliver key capabilities. Such work was essential and has included direct involvement in multiple Extensible 3D (X3D) Graphics Working Groups as part of membership in the Web3D Consortium. The royalty-free Extensible 3D (X3D) Graphics International Standard was shown to have fundamental value by mapping well to diverse commercial formats and by adding integrated features for metadata provenance, visualization, Web viewability and model composition. X3D Working Groups in the non-profit Web3D Consortium provided continuing further value. Early February 2018 included a well-attended project review at NPS that reviewed plans and developed detailed strategies. We have followed that collaborative plan closely, to good effect. The findings and conclusions of this project follow the three phases identified there: design, developers beta testing, and soft launch testing as part of current work.

PHASE TWO: DEVELOPER'S BETA TESTING

The ability to find printable models by category, community and metadata tags is currently in developer's beta. Presently, GitLab-based automation for processing and preparation is found in the Model Exchange Staging Area (MXSA). Procedures continue to be refined using automated and manually performed processing, resulting in steadily increasing automation capabilities. The GitLab repository supports the X3D Model Exchange portal by hosting developer assets. All contributions are unclassified open source, with either public or For Official Use Only (FOUO) access. Membership is strictly controlled to block hackers and ensure professional progress.

The *ModelExchangeStagingArea* (*MXSA*) repository serves as a staging area, holding 3D model assets for the X3D Model Exchange. Here, developers can add any assets of interest into a project. These assets include but are not limited to 3D models, data, metadata and videos. Developer participation is by government personnel, or designated contractors in a support role.

ModelExchange7 and *ModelExchange8* are two further repositories supporting code and configuration files deployed as part of the X3D Model Exchange portal. Developed using Drupal 8 code and other open-source assets, and extending the Drupal 7 predecessor open-source 3D Print Exchange developed by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the resulting X3D Model Exchange is online at https://modelExchange.nps.edu with public-facing support.

PHASE THREE: SOFT LAUNCH TESTING AND CURRENT WORK

Soft launch testing began in summer 2018 by inviting our first Navy and Marine Makers. Early users first verify that they have a 3D model saved to any format and identify the appropriate level of access applicable to the model, i.e. For Official Use Only (FOUO) or unrestricted. The model title, author information and hash tags are then used to upload the model to GitLab's Model Exchange Staging Area. Makers then provide the details in a description of their open source model. These details may include drawings, plans, photos and videos. Uploaded user models are then acknowledged by Model Exchange administrators and then further tested and prepared by partner developers in the Model Exchange Staging Area (MXSA) using NPS GitLab version control. When ready, the new model assets are placed into the Navy X3D Model Exchange and published according to their administrator-confirmed level of access. We are publishing models on a weekly basis.

With the Drupal 8 update complete, 3D model upload/download testing continues. Current work includes providing tutorials for end users who are learning the system, creating FAQ's and

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other help files, development of community forums, and improving the taxonomy of metadata vocabularies. Models are accepted each week with ongoing incremental processing improvements.

Community building and engagement remains a critical component for growing the X3D Model Exchange. The primary resource for Navy and Marine Makers on the Model Exchange site is the community-driven discussion forums. Here, Makers can contribute to various partner forums, site development forums, and share lessons learned on how to make something new. Additionally, the administrators provide reports on Model Exchange site progress to community members. The X3D Model Exchange also maintains a social media presence on both YouTube NavyMakers and Twitter@NavyMakers where highlights and developments within the broader additive manufacturing community can be shared. Weekly teleconferences with Seabee users continue guiding this work, and further activity is expected with MarineMakers. Much continued future work is expected in direct support of NPS Strategic Plan and multiple external partners.

Recommendations for Further Research

This report provides only a small slice of the many activities being integrated and enabled. Interested users are invited to explore the portal to learn much more. Interested developers are welcome to contact us and learn about collaboration opportunities.

- Continue development and maintenance of the Drupal 8 website with shared issue tracking.
- Finish integration Capcha and CAC controls directly into the ModelExchange.nps.edu website.
- Further automate the integration of backups and newly added models & metadata with the NPS GitLab repository and its processing functionality. See attached figures for functional summary.
- Support multiple maker communities: Navy, Marine, Expeditionary and History/Heritage.
- Collect longitudinal metrics and statistics to measure usage and indicate areas for growth.
- Continue participating in Web3D Consortium X3D Working Groups to extend standards support for 3D printing, scanning and visualization in support of DoD Digital Engineering efforts.
- Share models with NAVFAC SPIDERS3D Virtual Environment, build "sand table" capability.
- Tighten website processing with data-centric security to ensure models remain uncompromised.
- Continue to build community through social media and other means of communication.
- Continue to "tell the story" of developers and users through interviews and video.

References

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- Model Exchange Staging Area (MXSA), https://gitlab.nps.edu/ModelExchangeGroup
- National Institutes of Health (NIH) 3D Print Exchange, https://3dprint.nih.gov
- Web 3D Consortium, https://www.web3d.org
- X3D Graphics, https://www.web3d.org/x3d/what-x3d
- Drupal 8, https://www.drupal.org/8
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- NPS Robodojo, https://my.nps.edu/web/robodojo
- NPS Additive Manufacturing, https://wiki.nps.edu/display/ADDM/Additive+Manufacturing
- Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), https://www.navfac.navy.mil
- Engineering and Expeditionary Warfare Center (EXWC), https://www.navfac.navy.mil/navfac worldwide/specialty_centers/exwc.html

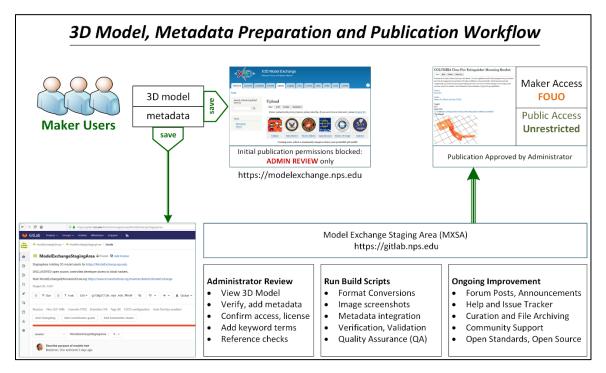
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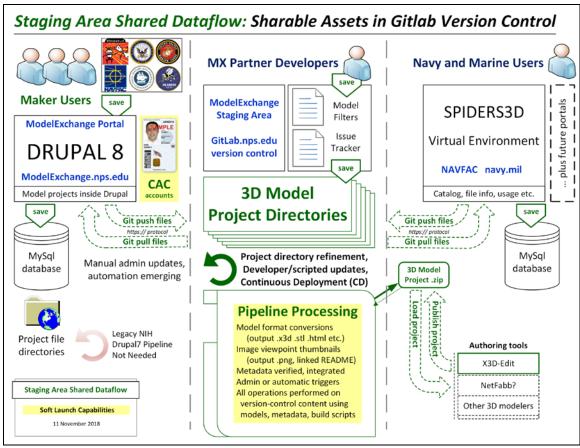
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Acronyms

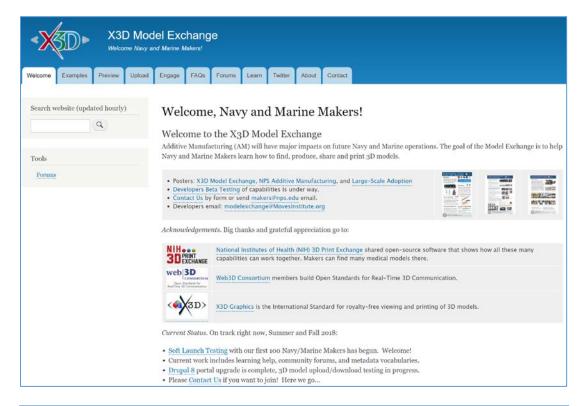
cronyms		
•	AM	Additive Manufacturing
•	CAC	Common Access Card, i.e. military/government ID card
•	CAD	Computer-Aided Design
•	CAPCHA	Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans
		Apart
•	CMS	Content Management System
•	DevOps	Agile-software Development Operations progress
•	Drupal	Name of open-source portal software and CMS
•	EXWC	Engineering and Expeditionary Warfighting Command
•	FAQ	Frequently Answered Questions
•	FOUO	For Official Use Only
•	Git	Version-control protocol for agile software development
•	Makers	Users who use tools to design, build, scan, 3D print for AM, etc.
•	ModelExchang	ge7 Drupal 7 version of Model Exchange
•	ModelExchang	ge8 Drupal 8 version of Model Exchange
•	GitLab	Open-source server environment for Git version control
•	MOVES	NPS Modeling, Virtual Environments, Simulation Institute
•	MX	X3D Model Exchange for Navy and Marine Makers,
		https://modelexchange.nps.edu
•	MXC	Model Exchange Contributions, part of
		https://gitlab.nps.edu/ModelExchangeGroup
•	MXSA	ModelExchange Staging Area
•	NAVFAC	Naval Facilities Engineering Command
•	NIH	National Institutes of Health
•	Robodojo	NPS Maker Lab, https://robodojo.nps.edu
•	SecDevOps	Secure agile-software Development Operations progress
•	SPIDERS3D	NAVFAC's Web-based visualization of ports and facilities using X3D
•	X3D	Extensible 3D Graphics International Standard
•	Web3D	Web3D Consortium
•	3D	Three-dimensional, three dimensions

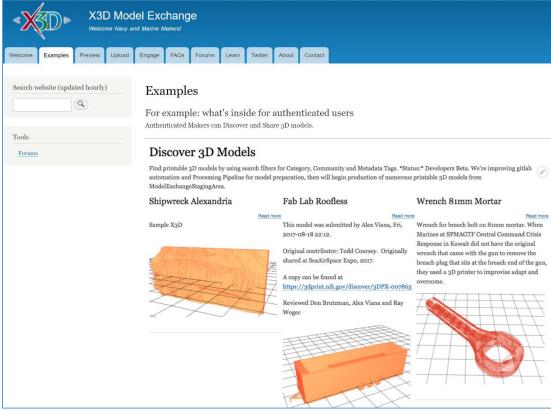
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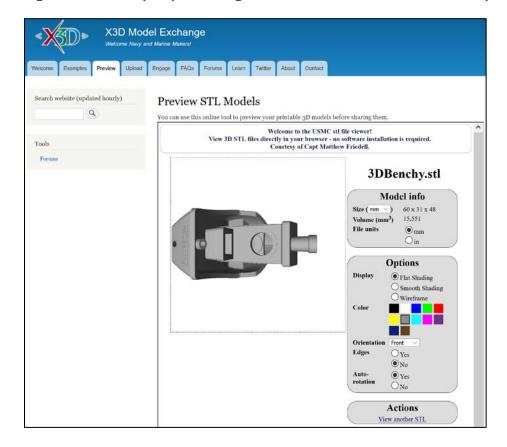


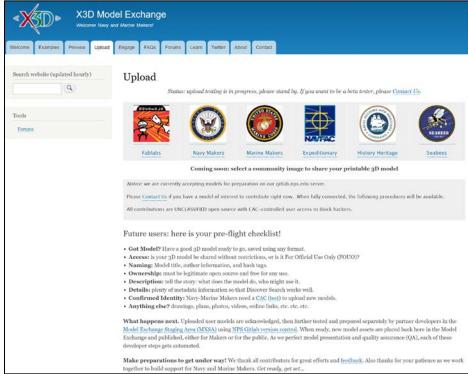
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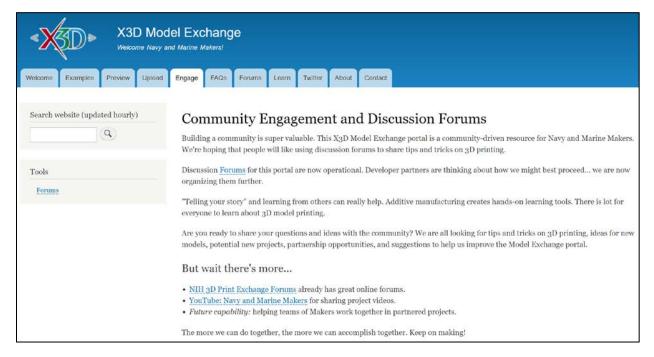


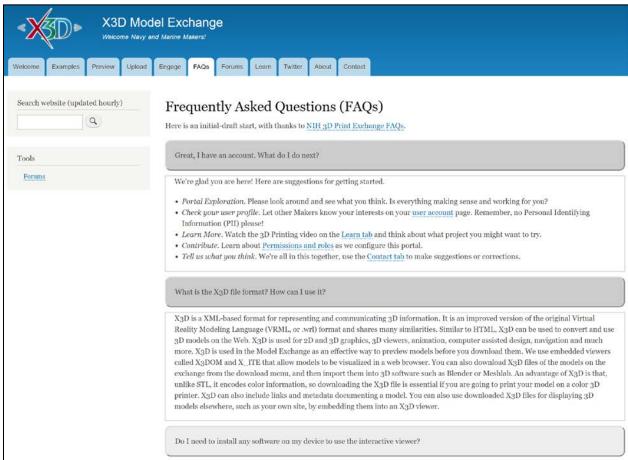
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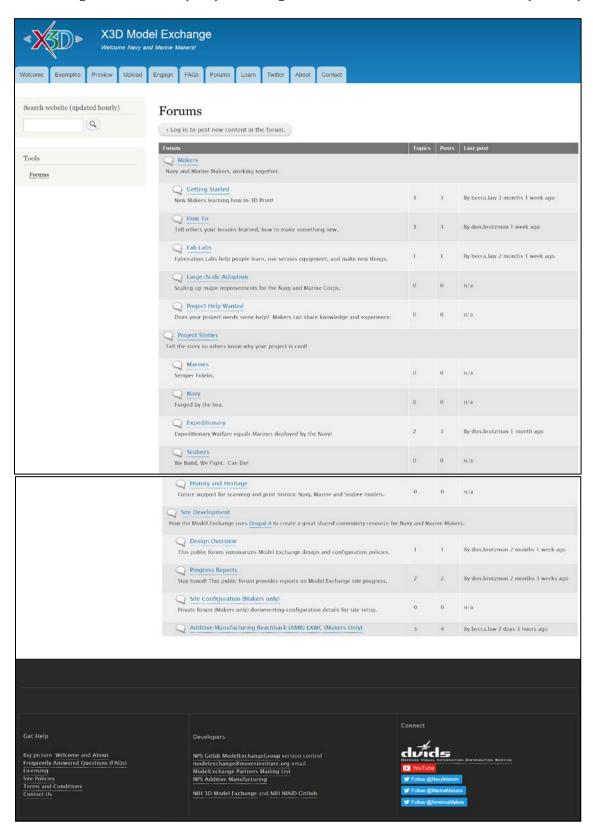


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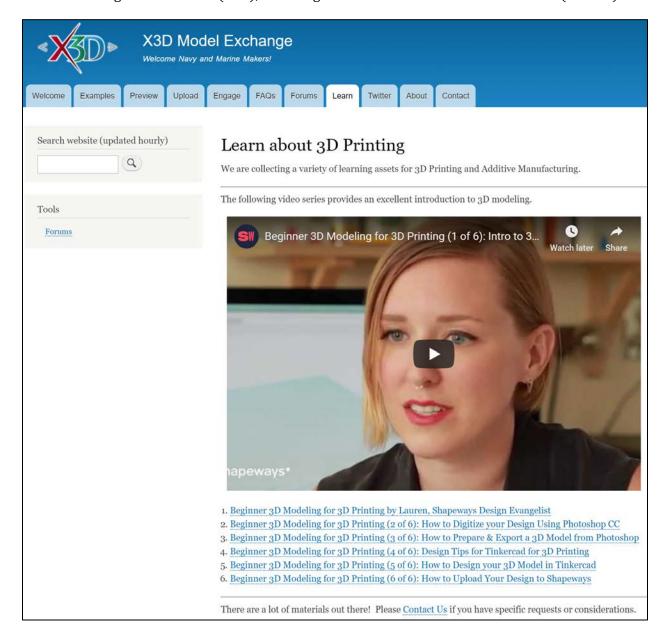




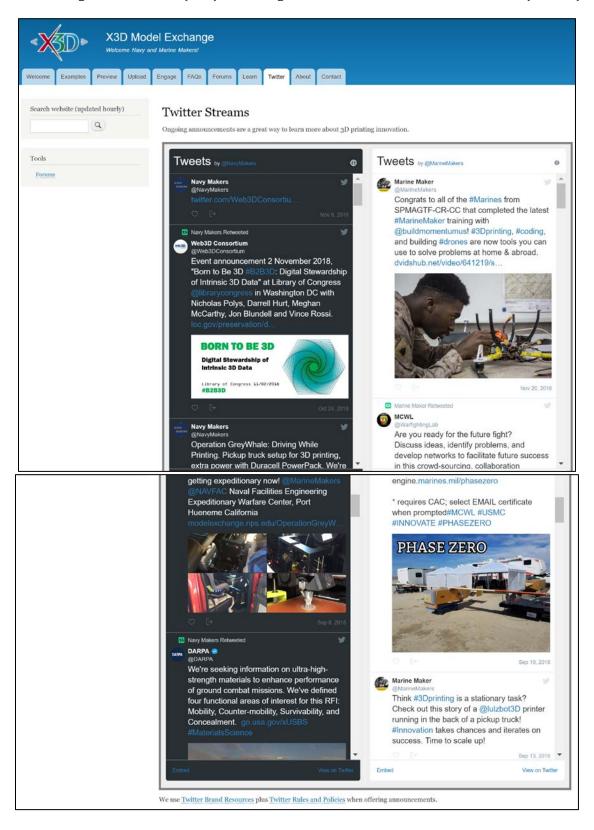
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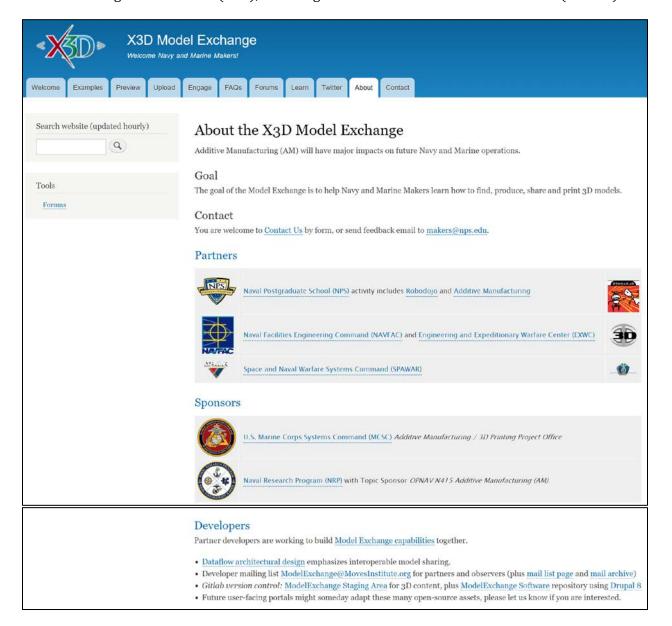
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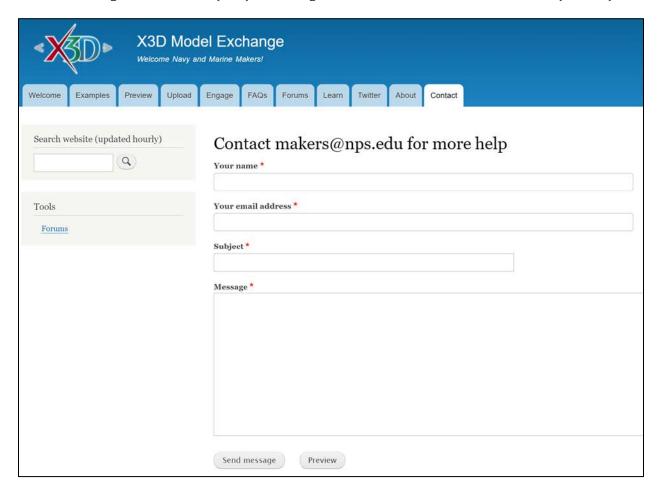


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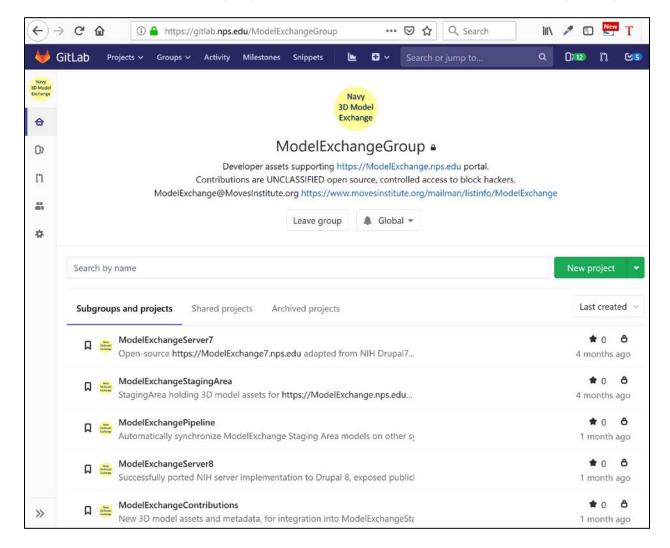
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Mail is delivered to ModelExchange administrators email makers@nps.edu

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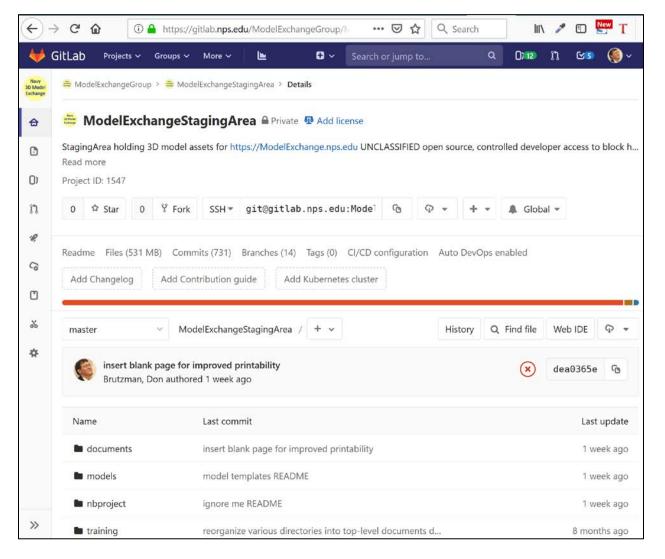


Version control accounts available on request, FOUO access at

https://gitlab.nps.edu/ModelExchangeGroup

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Putting all models into version control allows tracking of initial versions, modifications and improvements by multiple developers and multiple systems.

Account requests: makers@nps.edu

Access: https://gitlab.nps.edu/ModelExchangeGroup/ModelExchangeStagingArea