Distributed Collaboration - Assignment 1:
Google Waves

Date Assigned: Thu Aug 27, 2009

Completion Date: Thu Sep 10, 2009

In this assignment, you will understand the scope of distributed collaborative systems by doing a case study of a specific collaborative application – Google Wave. In addition, you will gain experience working with a partner.

Watch the 80 minute Google Wave video available at http://wave.google.com/ and answer the following questions. *Explain all answers.* Your answers should be based only on what you see in the video, though you are free to consult the documents on Google Waves available on the Web. By Google Waves, I mean all of the software mentioned/demonstrated in the video. I found that it is best to download the video before viewing it.

You should work in pairs. Use your favorite technology/process for collaborating with your partner.

1. What collaborative features does it provide that are not available in current email and IM tools?

2. Which features support "towards being there" and which support "beyond being there"?

3. Describe the specific usage scenarios given in the video of these features.

4. Consider the various related technologies mentioned in the Introduction section: virtual environments, distributed systems, real-time systems, user-interface technology, artificial intelligence, and protection/security. Which of these technologies have had a bearing on the design of the software mentioned in the video?

5. Which of the issues mentioned in the Introduction chapter are addressed in the video and how?

6. What process did you follow to collaborate with your partner – on which parts did you do alone, on which parts did you collaborate on, and which collaboration technologies did you use?

7. Hypothesize how you could have used Google Waves to collaborate on the assignment. Be as specific and creative as you can.