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Speaking online: the weakest link?: the integration of Horizon Wimba voice recording software with WebCT

Conference presentation

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Edinburgh, 27 Feb-1st March 2006

Speaking Online: The Weakest Link?

The Integration of Horizon Wimba Voice
Recording Software with WebCT

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LSE Language Centre

LSE Language Centre

- Teaching & learning MFL + EAP & applied research
- 200 students (100 Fr) study MFL as part of a degree (25%)
- 1600 students (550 Fr) as extra-curricular (0%)
- 2000 students take EAP courses (0%)

Contexts

Centre for Learning Technology

- LSE - 5 years using WebCT
- 260 courses using WebCT
- LSE has a 100Mbps JANET connection via LMN

Teaching & learning approach in Languages:

- Language For Academic Purposes :
Social Sciences
- Communicative approach
- 4 skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading
and Writing

E. teaching & learning approach in languages:

- Complement F2F teaching
- Timetable pressure for students
- Inadequately equipped/maintained teaching rooms
- Well equipped PC rooms
- From web lessons/ website to WebCT

The Weakest Link

WebCT supports 3 skills out of 4:

Listening, Reading & Writing

Speaking : missing skill on line

- Presentations burnt on CD,
- Assessment time-consuming
- Needs for dedicated PCs with webcam
- No interaction

Integration of Wimba

- a) Technical integration

- b) Pedagogical integration
 - Confidence & practice
 - Self reflection & feedback
 - Interaction & discussion
 - Tests & Assessments

Set of issues, solution = Wimba/WebCT

Technical integration

- From simple linking to PowerLinking
- WIMBA “voiceboard” tool
- Hosted @ LSE 2003-2005
- ASP hosted by Horizon Wimba 2005 onwards
- Other technical considerations
- Impressed by Wimba tech support (but appears to consist of a team of one!)

Add Page or Tool Select a page or tool to add to your course.

Pages	Course Content Tools	Communication Tools	Evaluation & Activity Tools	Student Tools
Organizer Page	Syllabus	Discussions	Quizzes/Surveys	My Progress
Single Page	Content Module	Mail	Self Test	My Grades
URL	Glossary	Chat	Assignments	Language Selector
	Image Database	Whiteboard	Student Presentations	
	Index	Calendar	Student Homepages	
	Content Utilities	Student Tips		
	Search	Wimba Voice Authoring		
	Compile	Wimba Voice Board		
	Resume Course	Wimba Voice Direct		
	CD-ROM	Wimba Voice E-Mail		

Add Wimba Voice Board

1. Enter a title for this item:

2. Voice Boards Settings

Title:

Description:

Audio quality

Max record length

- Display short message titles
- Display in chronological order
- Allow students to start a new thread

3. Decide where to show the link to this item.

On the *Course Menu*, visible on all pages. Link will appear as text.

On an *Organizer Page*:

- Link shows item title
- Link shows icon (select below)
 - Use default icon
 - Use custom icon

Choose icon:

4. Add this item to your course.

Confidence & practice

- **Asynchronous communication:** Opportunity for the learner to test him/herself, to practise at her/his own pace... great for students lacking confidence...
- Time management: 3 min long recording.
- Presentation skills : use of bullet points, no reading of turgid prose is allowed.
- Headsets on request, use of PCs anywhere on campus (except library).

Self-reflection & feedback

Learner autonomy: To support students so they can assess themselves their strengths and weaknesses, and design their own strategies to develop their skills (D.Little & ELP).

Feedback is easy to give,

Wimba voice board is an ideal tool...

Pronunciation... or reading skills ! (Aline Canning AMR.TC/ Students from Ivory Coast)

Interaction & discussion

- a mentoring scheme in which LSE students coach pupils from an inner-city school in South London in French
The voice board is their preferred activity !!
- Michel Herreria, a visual artist based in Bordeaux

Homepage > AMR-LSE

Wimba Voice Board






Compose Reply Export Delete Forward

- Miracle test 1 from Miracle Eyo
- test1 from Simon Campbell
- Miracle test 2 from Miracle Eyo
- test 1 from Gareth from Miracle Eyo
- test 1 shanae and nike from Shanae McEwan
- test 1 from Simon from Miracle Eyo
- Joe, Brian et Nathan 1 from Nathan Edwards
- Test with Francisco from Miracle Eyo
- test 2 nike and shanae from Shanae McEwan
- Joe, Brian et Nathan 2 from Nathan Edwards
- test from vengeance from Miracle Eyo
- test 2 from vengeance from Miracle Eyo
- test 1 malorie and michael from Malorie Bantala
- test 1 michael from Malorie Bantala
- Jason and Luigi from Christopher Ferraira
- joe, chavell and caro from Caro Omolaiye
- tags that work from Douglas CARLSON
- christopher and luigi from Christopher Ferraira
- joe, chavell et caro 2 from Caro Omolaiye
- test 1 for Karman + Funmi from Sofie Alexandra Engli HOGESTOL
- JACK TEST from Jerome Mitchell-Patterson
- JEROME TEST from Jerome Mitchell-Patterson
- tags from Kwasi Baugh
- Miracle's photo description from Miracle Eyo

POWERED BY Horizon Wimba


Wimba Voice Board


Com

Reply Forward Delete Export

Subject: Miracle test 1
Date: Wed Jan 11 14:59:02 GMT 2006
From: Miracle Eyo







Interaction & discussion

- E-legal discussion forum between Law students from LSE and the University of Lille,
- **“Social conversation”** between students from LSE, Paris Dauphine and Columbia University NYC,

e-Legal Voice Board

Compose
 Reply
 Export
 Delete
 Forward

- INTRODUCTION OF VINCENT from Kerry Haynes
- Introduction Of Vanessa from Vanessa Li
- introduction of Pierre-Etienne from pierre-etienne hourlier
- Introduction Of Jean-Vianney from Kerry Haynes
- Summary of November 8th from Tiphaine Deheumynck
- Choix des sujets Week 2 from NATHALIE CHASSON
- Daryl from Daryl David SULLIVAN
- FLD presentations - "France Riots" from Kerry Haynes
- Week 3 - Please EVERYONE reply to this from NATHALIE CHASSON**
- La Propriete Intellectuelle - 4 Expressions Cles from Daryl David SULLIVAN
- Re: Week 3 - Please EVERYONE reply to this from NATHALIE CHASSON
- Re: Week 3 - Please EVERYONE reply to this from Katherine BAGERMAN
- Re: Week 3 from Martin Gareth HAMMOND
- Omar - part one from Omar Farooq SHAFI
- Omar - part two from Omar Farooq SHAFI
- Week 4 - la violence dans les banlieues, suite et fin from NATHALIE CHASSON
- European questions... from Jeau-Vianney Massin
- reponse aux questions 4,5,6 from Zoe FIANDER
- Week 5 - How much is too much? from Kerry Haynes
- réponse from Marija SKUNDRIC
- WEEK 6 - Group presentation and summary from NATHALIE CHASSON
- semaine 6 from Marija SKUNDRIC
- resume (semaine 6) from Sebastien Sangarane ALLAIN

POWERED BY Horizon Wimba

e-Legal Voice Board

Com

Reply Forward Delete Export

Subject: **La Propriete Intellectuelle - 4 Expressions Cles**
 Date: Tue Nov 15 19:12:15 GMT 2005
 From: Daryl David SULLIVAN

ON
MAI
ASS

POWERED BY Horizon Wimba



Tests & Assessments

- **Examination Co-ordinator, LSE**

Degree component 20% + course work + participation

Extra-curricular course 15 % + course work + particip.

- **Examiner, examination vetter, author**

HM's Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Community of European Management Schools

- **Speaking = key skill**

Key issue = quality assurance

Tests & Assessments

- Easy access to all/any recordings,
- « Dossier » part of European Language Portfolio, however no electronic version yet (?)
- Key evidence of achievement for internal moderation, external examiners and bench marking/level descriptors,

Further developments

- Further reflection & evaluation on interaction & discussion,
- Showcase our approach on a CD Rom:
Society & Art in a VLE (SALVE)
**Communication across social boundaries
and academic disciplines,**
- Explore Live *virtual* Classroom from Horizon Wimba,



A big thank you to

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Leslie Kennedy from WebCT

Mike Bailey from Horizon Wimba

Useful links

Horizon Wimba: <http://www.horizonwimba.com/>

Le français @ LSE:

http://www.lse.ac.uk/Depts/language/French_main/LSE_FrenchMain.htm

LSE Centre for Learning Technology:

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/clt/>

VLE Languages User group (HE):

<http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/VLE-LANGUAGES-USER-GROUP.html>



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