Overview of E-learning

Prof. Dr. Toni Janevski
Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technologies
Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje
Email: tonij@feit.ukim.edu.mk
What is E-learning?

- **E-learning** refers to the use of electronic media and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in education.

- So, what ICTs can be used for eLearning?
  - Any suitable technology is an option, but…
  - Most solutions today converged to **Web-based** solutions, but why?
    - Well, it is due to WWW **accessibility** over different fixed and mobile/wireless access networks, and its **multimedia** nature.
What is Distance Learning (DL)?

- **Distance Learning (DL)** is a mode of delivering education to students who are not physically present in a traditional setting such as a classroom.

- Distance Learning provides access to learning when the source of information and the learners are separated by time and distance (or both).

- DL courses that require a physical on-site presence for any reason (including taking examinations) are referred to as hybrid or blended courses of study.
Consideration from the start!

We may accept that (without losing in generality):

E-Learning = Distance Learning
Planning the course

- Determination of the course (draft) title
- Specification of the course dates
  - Several months ahead of the start date
- Choosing appropriate course duration
  - Depends upon the target participants
Development and production

- Writing the detailed course description
- Specifying tasks to assistants (if any) by the course tutor/instructor
- Preparation of the reading materials
- Marketing the event via:
  - Web sites,
  - E-mails,
  - etc.
Course description

- Administration
- Content management
- User management
- Evaluation
- Certification
Administration of the course

- The roles must be defined
- Course administration is different than course tutors
- Administration typically provides:
  - Logistics
    - ITU administrative personal, tutor and tutor assistants
  - Platform and access to it
    - ITU Academy web site
User management

Define how the user can enroll into the course:

- Manual enrolment
  - Course coordinator manages it
- Self-enrolment of the participants
  - With an enrolment key
- Guest access
  - To allow or not to allow?
Content Management

- Typically tutor should manage the contents, including:
  - Content definition
  - Page design for content offering
  - Access to the content by the students
  - Creation of forums
  - Creation of quizzes
Student evaluation

- Students are evaluated via online exams (e.g., quizzes)
  - It is prerequisite for certification
  - No passed exam -> no certificate (regardless of the course fee payment)
Course evaluation

Course is evaluated:

- By students after its end by using Feedback:
  - E.g., anonymous.
  - However, it is not mandatory, but it is helpful for future courses.
  - It is also called self-evaluation.
- By the tutor:
  - In the form called Final Report, which is necessary after the course.
Use-case e-learning diagram among Professor, Administrator and Students

- System Maintenance
- Registration
- Login
- Training
- Assessment

- Professor
- Administrator
- Student
Proprietary and commercial Learning Management Systems (LMS)

- Coggno
- LearnHub
- Litmos
- Odijoo
- Learn.com Personal Edition
- Articulate Online
- CourseMill
- CourseMax
- Xerceo TrainingAtom
- Geo On-Demand
- Upside Learning Upside LMS
- Ultralearn
- TOPYX
- Sclipo
- CoursePark
- JoomlaLMS (e.g., standard from 299 USD, professional from 799 USD)
- Intellum
- Ziiva
- Training Partner
- Syberworks
- Enlightus
- Rainmaker
- SimplyDigi
- Classrunner
- Hosted Moodle
- Totara
- LM LESS
- Feathercap LMS
- Cornerstone OnDemand
- SimplyDigi

“Overview of E-learning”, Prof. Dr. Toni Janevski
LMS choice for ITU Academy

- The most used LMS worldwide is **Moodle** with over 70 million users and over 1.2 million teachers, tutors, professors.
- **Moodle** is open source and free.
- **Moodle** is highly scalable and adaptable.
- **Moodle** is easy to use for the end users – no need for a manual, it is intuitive (highly important).
- **Moodle** suits well academic courses (University level), as well as professional trainings and workshops (like this one in Nairobi).
- Hence, **Moodle** is the chosen LMS for the **ITU Academy**, and we will focus on it.
Strong points of the ITU Academy

- Main strong aspect is the global reach of the ITU Academy and familiarity of many ICT people with ITU and ITU work
  - Overall, ITU is the brand of the ITU Academy
- Well established relations between professors/tutors, administrators and students
- Different tools available in the ITU Academy for course delivery, administration and evaluation
  - Materials, forums, messaging, quizzes, feedback, etc.
Weak points of the ITU Academy

- Different reliability of access bitrates in different countries worldwide:
  - Some users experience non-continuous Internet access and somewhere it is not really broadband
- Sometimes manual invoicing delays the completion of the course administration and certification
Summary

- E-learning has become possible with development of broadband access to Internet, since:
  - It requires higher data rates (in both directions – from and to end users) for providing information to students and obtaining input from them in a given time interval.
  - It requires multimedia contents.

- Organization of an elearning course has crucial importance for its successful delivery

- There are many existing free Learning and Management Systems (LMS)
  - Moodle has largest users’ base,
  - Moodle is the LMS choice for ITU Academy.