



Overview of E-learning

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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 loosing 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

Office administration



User management

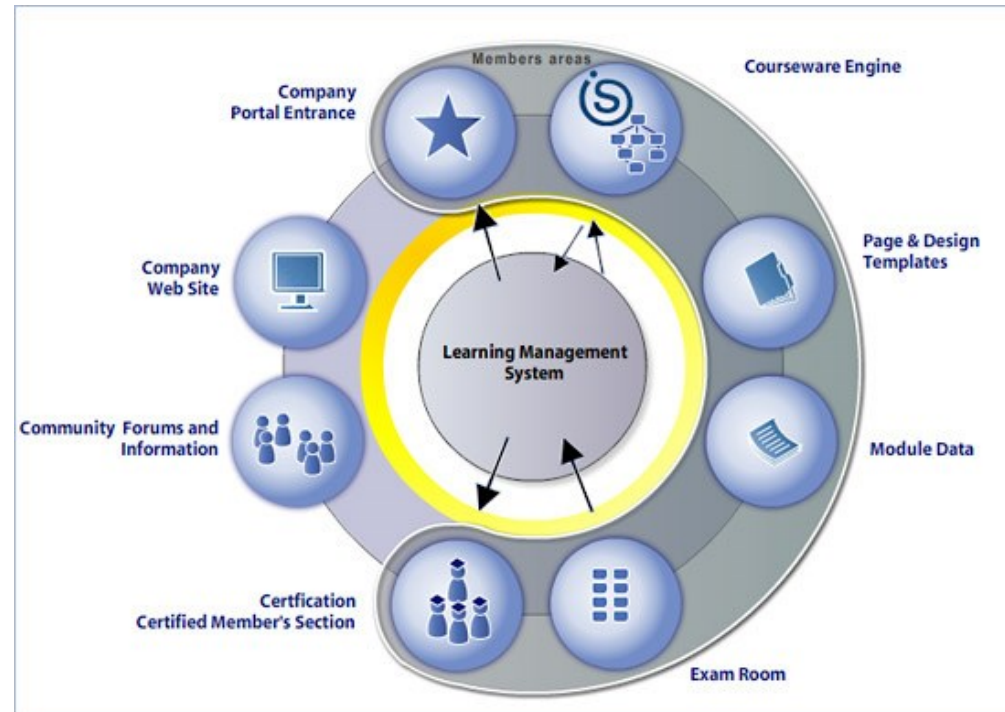
- Define how the user can enroll into the course:
 - Manual enrolment
 - Course coordinator manages it
 - Self-enrolment of the participants
 - With an enrolment key
 - Guest access
 - To allow or not to allow?



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.

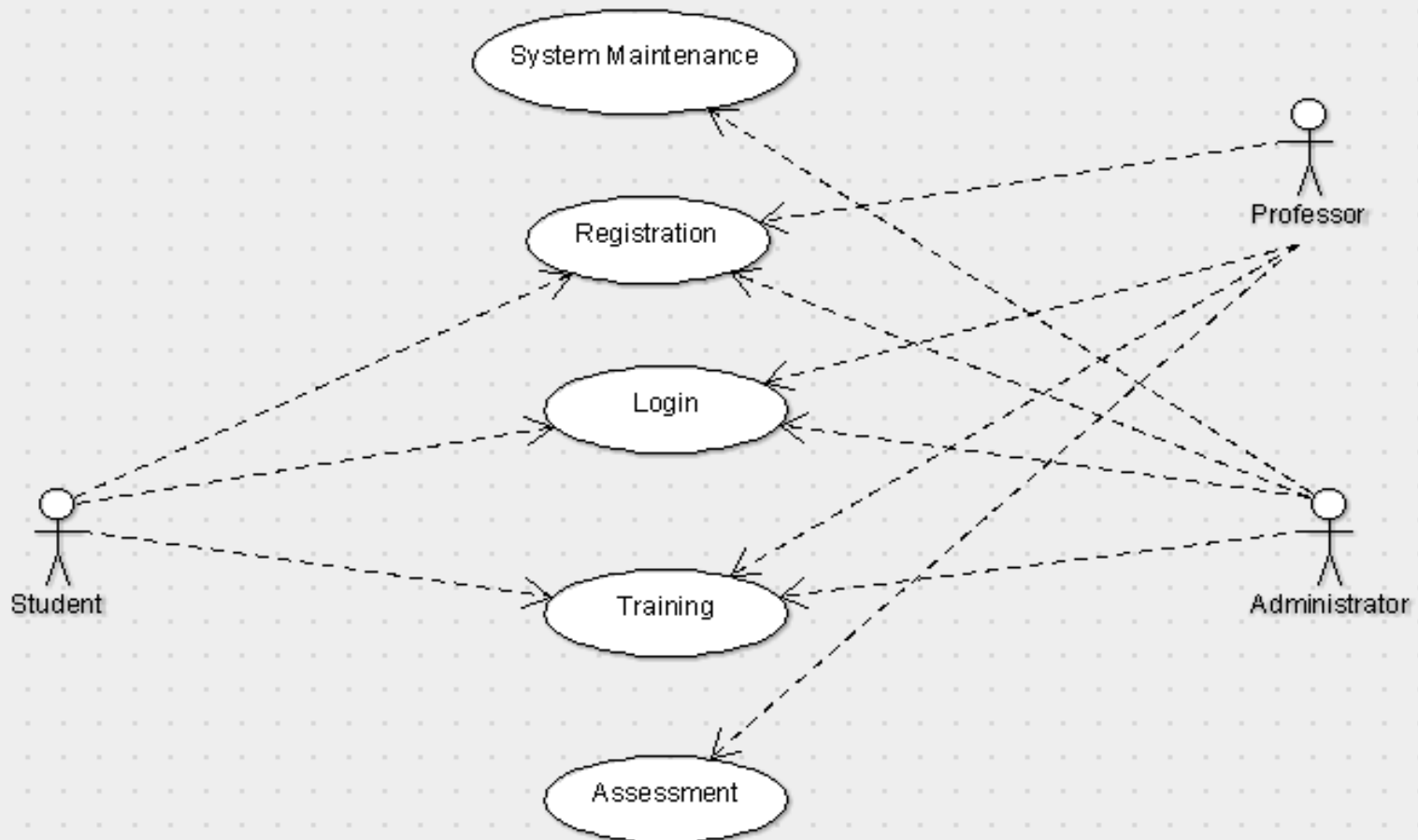
□ By the tutor:

- In the form called **Final Report**, which is necessary after the course.





Use-case e-learning diagram among Professor, Administrator and Students





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



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.