Al Basra University
College of Computer Science and Information Technology
Computer Information Systems Department
Electronic Technology (E-Technology)
Asst.Prof. Asaad A. Alhijaj

Lect.10

Communication process in e-learning :-

In the whole e-learning system the communication process plays a very important role.
Whether it is during the preparing phase i.e. between the people involved during the creation phase or during the training phase as we saw in the architecture above , the communication process is necessary.
the lack of proper communication in any phase of the system may not produce a desired result or even cause the whole system to crash . But the process of communication during the development and the training phase may differ .

People involved during the designer phase are the ones who prepare the materials and the ones who make those digital copies available to the users .

But between that there a host of other people involved such as illustrators, drawers , recorders ,camerapersons and photographers who have to work together to produce the necessary learning materials.

After the study material has been prepared it will be stored as a digital in the database . Users access the materials form the database using different platforms .

The communication process the technology used is the hardware , software and the network communication . But creators , host and learners use these components in different levels . In general the communication process can be summarized as in following table (1).

Table 1 Communication components in e-learning

Communication component	Creators	Host	Learners
Hardware	Multimedia devices to create the materials, example: cameras	Network equipment	Computers or hand held devices with network connections.
Software	Applications necessary to create the material, example: Microsoft Office	Servers	Web browsers, flash and media players
Network Connection speed required	Moderate speed	High speed	Moderate speed

In above table illustrate the different components required in the communication process during the different phases of the e-learning system.

E-learning platforms at Metropolia UAS :-

The Helsinki Metropolia university of Applied Sciences is one of the leading universities of applied sciences in Finland. Metropolia offers courses in the field of technology , business , culture, health care and social services . Metropolia aims at training students for the future and integrating technology in the study process is one of the core parts of the strategy . Metropolia offers students various e-learning environments to ease the student's learning process effective . So to publish the learning materials produced by two dental hygiene students , we had a few options . Some of the options are discussed .

1. Tuubi
      tuubi is a portal in metropolia dedicated to connect students with the administration and teachers . It is a multifunctional platform . Students can get information about what is going at the university and at the same time manage their courses .
every student in metropolia gets a username and password while starting their studies . While multifunctionality is an asset on Tuubi , it makes its user interface complicated and students will need some tome to get used to using it .

Picture 1: screenshot of front page of tuubi

From the picture above the home page contains links to :

1. Various administrative information for the students.
2. Links to various students tools.
3. Recent announcements

4. Events
5. Workspaces of the courses I have enrolled in
6. General workspaces I have subscribed to
7. Vacancy announcements

Having all these links in the same place makes the user interface of the Tuubi complicated but once students get used to it they can find it very useful .

 So while creating a course to be available in Tuubi students should enrol them using the enrolment service or subscribe to the workspace using Tuubi. Once they subscribe the link to the workspace of the course appears on the left side of the homepage .
 An example of how a workspace will appear in Tuubi is shown in the following picture 2,

Picture 2 : Example of how workspace appears in tuubi

As we can in picture 2 , there are several functionalities in the workspace in tuubi.

- The front page has a summary of the latest activities by the instructor and the description of the workspace .
- The announcements page contains all the announcements related to the course posted by the instructor .
- The documents page has the course materials uploaded by the instructors . The documents are usually pdf or word documents . If the instructor wants to post any video documents he can just post the link to the videos. Embedding video files in not possible here.

- The assignments page has the details about the assignments created by the instructor as well as the space to return it with the deadline . The instructor can check the assignments and provide the feedback to the student using the assignment page.

- If the course is structure into parts it can be seen in seen in the parts of implementation.

- Students can involve in discussion related to the course using the discussion page . They can start a new thread or contribute to the existing thread to solve various questions related to the course .

- The calendar page has the important dates related to the course such as the schedule of the course , assignments deadline and exam dates.

- Users are divided into students and instructors and displayed accordingly on the users and groups page . It helps students if they want to contact the instructor or any students in the course directly . They can obtain their e-mail id from here.

So as we can see there are various functionalities of using tuubi to publish the materials but there are some major drawbacks as well .

In tuubi we cannot publish any videos directly . Instead we have to post the link only and the pictures also have to be published in pdf format .

There is no general structure for the course .

Instead the lecture materials can just be published with their names and students have to download them to view .

Once the students graduate from the university they have no possibility to view the workspace again .

They can view the materials only if they have downloaded them during the study period.

Questions

Q1: discuss Tuubi briefly .

Q2: define the communication in e-learning.

Q3: what the communication components for e-learning .

Q4: give example for how workspace appears in tuubi.

Q5 : what the home page contains links to ? Give some of that .