AC TechTimes

Exploring LMS Opportunities
(LMS) Learning Management System

So Easy a Caveman Can Do It
LMS Rating Process

□ If Hutson and Biggers fully understand the system, then the LMS system is easy enough an orangutan can do it.

□ If Hutson and Biggers kind of understand the system, then the LMS system is easy enough a first-grader can do it.

□ If Hutson and Biggers can only figure out how to log on, then The LMS system is easy enough all the faculty can master it.

□ If Hutson and Biggers are clueless, then The LMS system is easy enough all the students can use it.

□ We know that if Hutson and Biggers can figure it out, then everyone can.

The LMS committee has spent several meetings perfecting a rating system that includes vendor scenarios, student polls and checklists. Teams have been assigned to filter through all of the vendor responses to our RFP requests. The LMS team is committed to making the most informed decision possible.

LMS
Last Man Standing

Sometimes just the simple knowledge of a timeline can help remedy the pain of transition. Recently the LMS core team sat down and created a **tentative** timeline for full implementation of the new LMS. There are many unknown factors that could speed up or slow down the process. The overall project requires approval and collaboration from several areas of the college. The coordination of the implementation is crucial, and the timing could be altered easily. Listed is a suggested time line that is subject to change.

May 12 – 29, 2008 Vendors interviews/demonstrations with "sandbox" capabilities.

May 30, 2008 Selection of vendor determined with the option to extend the selection of vendors if more time is needed.

May 31, 2008 EduServe contract completed.

July 7, 2008 Train the Trainers will begin.

 July-August, 2008 Begin Training Faculty

August 25, 2008 Fall2008

October 2008 Fall Too Pilot Group

January 20, 2008 Spring 2009 Run Parallel Server

May 26, 2008 Summer 2009 Complete Conversion to a Single Server.

Amarillo College

This is a public health announcement brought to you by the LMS Committee.

While waiting for the final LMS decision, faculty can be using the time wisely by preparing their courses for migration. Clean courses by deleting unused files and downloading course files to your computer. Always save a course backup in case of system failure. WARNING: loss of data can be harmful to your heath.

Branding UPDATE

There was a valid concern about the use of a badger icon voiced by College Relations. In order to enhance public recognition, the badger icon must be consistent throughout the college. The LMS Committee is working with College Relations to try to recreate the historical badger icon. Ellen Green the Dean of Communicating and Marketing has hired an artist to update the badger used in the past. Until the resurrection is complete, the "Webster" branding idea will be put on hold. Hopefully a final decision will be made by late June.

CONGRATULATIONS LAURIE ODLE FOR WINNING THE NEWSLETTER DRAWING

Q&A With Techno Geek

Dear Techno Geek,
My online students keep emailing to tell me they will not be in class because they claim their computers have a virus. I have also noticed my online drop rate is very high compared to my traditional class. Do you think the virus is contagious? Is there a vaccine for this virus that will help prevent an epidemic?
Sincerely, Need a Cure

Dear Cure Seeker,
You are correct! The online student drop rate is commonly very high. The treatment plan for this diagnosis is to engage your students. Make your students accountable to each other by assigning group work. Create a regular dialog with your students that encourages them to interact regularly.

Dear Techno Geek,
I am a fourth-year freshman studying veterinary medicine because I love children. I have always excelled at school. I was valedictorian, class president and prom queen. I really enjoyed the home-schooled experience. Since then, I have been taking a slew of online courses. Why are some classes extremely interactive and other courses are just a lengthy word document that we have to scroll down and read? Is there not some type of training for instructors?
Sincerely, The Freshman

Dear Freshman ,
For the sake of all students, faculty should be taught how to deliver a quality online course. Encourage your instructor to sign up for training when it is offered. You might lovingly suggest to your instructor(s) the website http://www.elearningguild.com/pdf/4/guildtipsbook-final.pdf, which has 834 tips for successful online instructions.

Dear Techno Geek,
Please help me, I am in Shell Hell. As an online instructor, I need to know who sells course shells by the server? What a tongue twister! I am so confused. I don't know the difference between a live server and a developer server. Why is there so much paperwork just to have a shell? How is Colleague related? Simply, where the hell is my shell?
Sincerely, Shell Shocked

Dear Shell Shocked,
Two environments contain shells. One is called a live server, which is for active courses that have student enrollment. The other is called a developer server that is for developing and editing. Shells are placed on the developer server manually added by the networking staff. Once the course is developed, it is ready to be exported into the live server. Since all classes and students are pushed from Colleague to the live server through an automated computer process, communication must take place between the faculty and the registrars. A class shell is automatically created on webct41.actx.edu for each class listed on Colleague. If the class has not been properly coded in Colleague (online/hybrid), then the automated process will not recognize the class needs a shell and it will not go to Web CT. "To insure your shell will be ready for you on the live server, make sure you complete the Online Course Offering Form found on the E-Learning Center's site (www.actx.edu/elearning) before the posted deadline. If you just want to work on a course on the development server, then email the IT Help Desk, and the helpful staff can create a shell for you." Until you fully understand the shell concept. I recommend you avoid the beach.

If you would like to have a psychotic exchange of information or you have a question for Techno Geek, email biggers-cj@actx.edu