

WebCT Users' Group Meeting

Minutes for September 14, 2004 - 3:40-4:40 P.M. CTL Conference Room

In attendance at the WUG meeting : Denise Quintrall, Tim Samuels, Annemarie Pajewski, Maria Gardeta-Healy, Nelly Koleva, Terri Martinez, Mary Zimmerer, Shelley Rodrigo, Stacey Nordhues, Liz Dorland, Donna Gaudet, and Peg Johnson.

Introductions were in order for the first WebCT Users Group Meeting (WUG) of the semester. Faculty also explained how they were using WebCT for teaching their classes.

STACEY NORDHUES' ONLINE COMMUNICATION COURSE

Stacey Nordhues then showed the group the online COM 100 Introduction to Human Communication course she developed last semester as part of MCC's Distance Learning Mentoring Group. She is piloting her course this semester. It's going well so far.

Stacey is using the selective release feature of WebCT to make content available to students for approximately two weeks. This encourages students to keep up as they cannot access some content for the whole semester.

Stacey has students in her class send a photograph of themselves to post online so students can "meet" their classmates. Some students included photographs of their families and/or pets. Stacey includes a photograph of herself with her son and husband.

Students take weekly online quizzes. They also post answers to the discussion board (bulletin board). Questions usually pertain to the readings they have been assigned in the textbook. Students must also reply/comment on at least two other students' postings.

Stacey has used Breeze Presentation software to create small file size powerpoint presentations with audio that are streamed over the internet. She created the slides and then recorded the audio to accompany the slides. The instructor needs to install Breeze Presentation software on his/her PC

computer (available to MCC faculty due to MCC's site license) and have a microphone for recording their voice.

All the student needs to view the files is a Flash player plug-in. This is free and is already installed on approximately 98% of all computers in use, according to a recent survey.

Breeze Presentations cannot be created on Macintosh computers, but if the instructor creates a Breeze Presentation on a PC computer, students using a Macintosh computer can view it.

The CTL offers Breeze Presentation workshops. To register for a class, go to the CTL Homepage at <http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/other/ctl/main.html>

Stacey also had recorded some videos of speeches that students watch. Of the ten students enrolled in her class, seven of them have high-speed internet connections. The videos download in a reasonable time frame for these students. For the three students on dial-up connections, Stacey plans on burning a CD with the videos and mailing them.

Students enrolled in Stacey's online communication course are required to come to campus two times - once to participate in a group discussion and once to give a speech.

Stacey is using WebCT email but not the drop box feature.

Stacey graciously agreed to let faculty view her course as a guest (viewing it as a student would see it). Go to this URL: <http://webct.mc.maricopa.edu>

Your username is g_nordhues

Your password is communicate

WebCT STUDENT TIPS

Donna Gaudet demonstrated a neat feature of WebCT that none of the rest of us had used yet, WebCT Student Tips. It allows the instructor to create tips that pop up on the student's screen when they link to the course

homepage. A tip can say anything you want to. Donna uses it to show frequently asked questions and the answer. For example, the tip might say:

Question: How many times can you take the online quiz for this course?

Answer: You are allowed to take each quiz two times, and the highest score is recorded.

You may have seen these tips in commercial software. With WebCT, it is amazingly easy to create them. Donna created step-by-step directions. **Her directions are attached to this email message.**

The student can choose not to view these tips if they wish.

THE SOLUTION TO THE POP-UP BLOCKER PROBLEM IN WEBCT

The solution to the problem students can experience when they open a quiz in WebCT was revealed at our first WebCT Users Group meeting (see what you missed!). If the student has a pop-up blocker enabled, it will shut down the quiz as soon as it opens. In the past, we suggested that students disable the pop-up blocker before they log in to a WebCT quiz.

But there's an easier way! If the student holds down the control key and while clicking on "begin quiz", the pop-up blocker will be bypassed and the quiz stays in view. Voila!

Also, if students are having trouble viewing WebCT with Internet Explorer as their browser, they can use Mozilla or Netscape (version 7 or later).

Peggy Johnson

johnson@mail.mc.maricopa.edu

phone (480)461-7703

