



From textbooks to e-learning

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From textbooks to e-learning

- **An overview of our online courses**
- **Why go on-line?**
- **An overview of the work processes**
- **Expected and unexpected issues that came up...**
- **How to assess if the results are meeting our objectives?**
- **Lessons learnt**



An overview of our online courses

WebCT (Current)

- LANG 011 Internet Based Putonghua Pinyin Learning System
- LANG 011 Basic Putonghua
- LANG 112 Advanced Business Putonghua



An overview of our online courses

Learning Space (under construction)

- LANG 306 The Real Challenge: Job-seeking Skills for Engineering Students

G-principles: A Grammar course for business students



Why go on-line?

- **Benefits to learners**
- **Benefits to teachers**



Benefits to learners

- providing more practice
- promoting self-access learning
- promoting collaborative learning
- catering to different needs and levels of learners



Benefits to learners

- using multimedia elements to enhance students' learning experience
- creating an effective and stimulating learning environment
- encouraging the planning of learning strategy and higher order thinking
- providing immediate feedback to learners



Benefits to teachers

- building a virtual classroom where time is not a major issue
- extending the depth and breadth of the knowledge base
- connecting with more students and developing a deeper level of communication
- exploring new teaching methods
- advancing ourselves



An overview of the work processes

- Plan
- Implementation
- Evaluation



Plan

- deciding on goals
- identifying target audiences
- setting learning objectives
- choosing a platform
- setting realistic schedule for implementation



Implementation

- examining the learning objectives
- designing learning activities & assessments
- developing prototype
- dividing up work
- continuous content revisions



Evaluation

Formative evaluations to ensure that

- contents are in “bite-size”
- illustrations are appropriate
- presentation formats are relevant
- technology used is effective
- style and tone are consistent throughout



Evaluation

Summative evaluations to check that

- objectives are achieved
- navigation is user-friendly

Use summative evaluation results for future upgrades



Expected and unexpected issues that came up...

Expected issues

- lack of technical knowledge
- technical problems, e.g. Chinese characters and tone marks
- time-consuming



Expected and unexpected issues that came up...

Unexpected issues

- inadequate hardware
- resources/funding for new purchases and upgrades
- huge time involvement



Expected and unexpected issues that came up...

Unexpected issues

- project management / project handover / programmer turnover / program documentation
- steep learning curve



How to assess if the results are meeting our objectives?

- questionnaire / face to face interviews
- observing students progress in class
- collecting verbal feedback from students in class
- participation rate
- quality of work / discussion



Lessons learnt

- plan before you leap
- know what you want
- set realistic goals
- allow plenty of time & energy
- be creative, flexible and patient
- look for a support infrastructure