

A short introduction to e-learning courses made in Novi Sad

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Agenda

- What we can expect from the e-courses that we are about to see?
- Why we offer them to this project?



Student projects

- Since 2002, we have student projects as the official courses in curriculum.
- Student projects are
 - Devoted to topics that are not otherwise covered in other courses
 - Organized around one theme/goal
 - Can be offered just once and never again
 - Usually involve research activities



Student project on e-learning

- This year we offered a student project on web-based/e-/distance learning.
- Because: interesting, worth-wile, useful, promising, ‘buzz-word’, modern, posh, ...
- However, not easy to introduce in one semester – can involve too many concepts and pre-knowledge

We did not want...

- ... to deal too much with theory (boring, too abstract, too much principles, emerging standards, various definitions, “dos” and “don’ts”, “shoulds” and “shouldn’ts”)
- ... to involve research (not enough pre-knowledge or not enough time to introduce it)
→ now, after this project, we can introduce more elaborate project for those that attended this one
- ... to involve too much teaching methods and didactics (the same reasons as above)

We wanted ...

- ... to enable students a practical, first hand experience with a fairly-elaborate and free software tool.
- With a minimal theoretical background (3 x 2 hours) and practical work, we hoped that students will be able to appreciate this field, recognize basic development directions and problems, and gain first-hand experience (→ we will have the best of two worlds).

Learning outcome

It is expected that the student at the end of the project will be able:

to develop and publish an e-learning course containing some didactic principles based on existing teaching materials in **at least** one existing software tool, **as well as to demonstrate an understanding of the importance and problems of e-learning as a field.**

Implementation

- 3 students from IV year (2 chose to take topics from SE)
- 5 students from III year (took other, mostly introductory, topics)
- Teaching methods, didactics:
 - make sure that the user read the material before continues,
 - provide a final test,
 - add pictures, discuss animations
- Students finished their work within two months, using publicly available tool: Moodle

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- Our project deals with e-/distance learning since the second workshop, mostly discussing (principles, possible frameworks, emerging standards, prototypes, ...) and not doing
 - Since we did something, we thought that it might be useful to show it, at least as an example used in further discussion ☺