

8Y-1 Course Profile Design on the ANGEL Course Management System

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1 Introduction

Web-based online education widely spread over higher education institutes in the USA. Now, it also begins to propagate to many high schools. It is already in commonplace to set up online courses into college education programs. On the other, universities in Japan are still groping for how to cope with online education in the dark. I had a chance to attend some classrooms having an ordinary classroom and its online classroom as a guest observer in the campus of Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) where the online education has already begun throughout affiliated eight campuses. I also had a chance to design my own course profiles on the new course management system called ANGEL (A New Global Environment for Learning) developed by Cyber Learning Lab collaborated with the IUPUI. This article describes designing course profiles on the ANGEL and how and what online education at IUPUI are going on. In addition, we describe the importance of supportive organizations such as The Office for Professional Development or The Center for Teaching and Learning at IUPUI.

2 About ANGEL

IUPUI began to explore technologies in the work of teaching and learning in 1990. Web-based environment for university courses (Oncourse) began in the fall of 1997. Oncourse services to all eight campuses of Indiana University began in the fall of 1999. The ANGEL is a Course Management System (CMS) software developed at IUPUI as a successor of the Oncourse and now marketed by CyberLearning Labs, Inc.(URL: <http://angel.cyberlearninglabs.com/Products/AngelPotal/default.asp>). There are unique features of ANGEL as follows[1]: Automatic creation of a user profile or Web-site for every user (students, faculty and staff), Portable and easy implanting in existing computer systems, Most comprehensive, easy-to-use, low maintenance, Flexible Permissions and Distributed authentication, Powerful Content Creation Tools, Advanced Logging.

To run the ANGEL system, the suggested production hardware environment is with Pentium III 500 MHz, 256MB RAM and 50 MB + 2 MB/user. Software requirements are Win NT Server 4.0 or Win 2000, IIS, MS SQL Server 7, CDONTS (Collaborative Data Objects),SAFileUp (File Upload Control).

3 Designing Course profiles on ANGEL

Fig.1 shows a schematic configuration of ANGEL.

Setting username and password on the ANGEL's front page, a user can enter My Profile page, which includes the user's profile information. The My Courses section of the profile lists all courses that the user is taking or teaching. When a user chooses a Course Profile, a user enters the SYLLABUS page of the course . A SYLLABUS page includes the information of instructor, the course, course description, course objectives, course schedule, course requirements, grading policy attendance policy and academic integrity. Each course has its own CALENDAR that instructors can use to set course-related events and announcements. Any events in the course CALENDAR are automatically displayed on the Personal Calendar of each enrolled user.

The LESSONS menu includes various contents of a course such as Course Notes, Course Schedule, Lesson Quizzes,

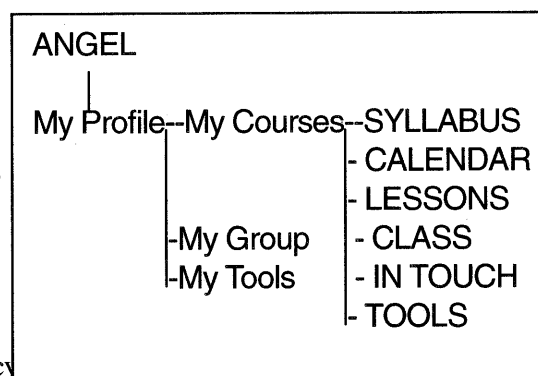


Fig 1. A Schema of ANGEL CMS

Class Discussion Board, Extra Credit Drop Box or Links. Instructors can design quizzes related to course notes using tools. Students can take quizzes on online. The Class Discussion Board is one of ANGEL's powerful tools that can set up threaded discussions and can be listed in sections of LESSONS and IN TOUCH menu. Drop Boxes are provided for students to submit all kinds of homework files using a Web browser. Instructors can easily review the submitted items and grade them. In the CLASS menu, instructors can manage the class roster by editing, adding and removing user accounts or user teams. Using the Personal Information Editor, each user can control the information being displayed. The next IN TOUCH menu has important communication tools that users can read and write course mails or threaded discussions, share files with team members, participate in live chats. The TOOLS menu has Agents and Course Report tools. The *Learning Profile Agent*, one of the Agents, provides a wide range of course performance measures and statistics. A variety of *Report tools* is provided for instructors to review student's activities in courses such as Grades, E-mails, Chat, and Drop Boxes. Intelligent Agents are discussed in the paper[3].

When we use ANGEL in Japanese environment, the use of Japanese characters is a necessary condition. If the language problem can be solved, ANGEL will be very useful course management system in Japanese educational field too.

4 Consideration About Online Education

First, Course Management System was developed to support distance education. Now CMS is widely used for conventional classrooms because there are superior points on online education as listed as follows[2]: 1) It is not limited with time, place, distance, countries. 2) Flexible medias (documents, slides, sounds, pictures and videos). 3) Capability on more deeper discussion and collaboration in classrooms. 4) Accesbility to world wide rich resources on the internet. 5) Synthetic campus network.

What environment should be prepared to introduce CMS and to promote online education? The answer to this question is in campuses of the U.S. colleges. Online education is a complementary means of education and deeply related to pedagogy. The U.S. colleges have an office for faculty development (OFD) and a center for teaching and learning. The role of the OFD is to gather good examples and knowledge on teaching from pedagogical viewpoints and propagate the information to faculty members through publications, meetings or medias. As a result, faculty members commonly own good education. The OFD does pedagogical activities to spread online education and to enhance collaborative learning in classrooms. The center for teaching learning assists and advises faculties from technical sides as instructors build their courses on CMS: How to make multimedia materials or Web contents. It is also important to connect between library and online education.

5 Conclusions

We introduced a Web-based course management system ANGEL developed by CyberLearning Labs, Inc. and mentioned the necessary organizations in a campus for education. The online education has a possibility to greatly change conventional classrooms to being more active and flexible.

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