

Design and Implementation of an E-learning Content Using Simple and Obtainable Tools

Dr. Abdullah Ahmad Basuhail

E-Training and Training Resources Center

Jeddah College of Technology. Jeddah, KSA

abasuhail@yahoo.com

Abstract

In this paper we demonstrated a top-down design method for the implementation of E-course content using available and easy to use tools. Specifically, we used Microsoft Office software package and in particular PowerPoint. We adopted this method for delivering E-course content in some of our courses that we taught to students. The method showed the effectiveness of developing the educational and training material. The produced package has the features of easiness of use and sharing among the course instructors and students. The design includes electronic course material as well as electronic self-evaluations that can be promptly evaluated electronically or can be evaluated on a modular basis. The final product can be integrated in an E-learning environment such as an LMS, or it can be distributed among the end-users over an internal computer network or over the Internet.

1. Introduction

Many tools for designing and implementing E-content are available in the market [1]. These packages range from the simple to use to complicated ones that need expert computer programmers or developers of E-content. Another problem with these packages is that most of them must be purchased and licensed which can be an obstacle and has an additional cost to be considered for the instructors and the learners who are willing to develop or use E-content.

It can be a successful approach that the developer of an E-course to be one of the course instructors whom might not be an expert in using computers and authoring software packages that can be used for developing the E-course content.

The use of available tools and software packages such as Office software package can make it much easier for non-expert developers and users of E-content. Although there might be some features in other electronic authoring packages which are superior to this package, or preferred to some users; but the common use of this software package among computer users and its popularity can make the development and use of E-content to be a building process over previous expertise.

2. Features of Digital Content

Today, the entire world is moving rapidly towards digitalization. There are many features that make this movement. Among the features: storing, modification, reusability, and sharing of information.

2.1 Storing

Storing of information is much easier in the digital form. It is compact in the way that an enormous amount of data that need huge physical volumes to pack can be stored in very small devices that can even fit in a person's pocket. Moreover, digital mediums are much resistible to decay. Other kinds of mediums are subjected to deterioration; for example, paper books can be decayed with time and subjected to other environmental effecting situations.