

## COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF EXISTING LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (LMSs)

Name of institution:

IADT-DL Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art Design and Technology.....

Type of institution: 3<sup>rd</sup> Level College.....

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Dublin.....

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Name of training manager:(Optional) HRM Kevin Browne.....

LMS used: As an individual - blackboard.com (free site for 6 courses).

URL of LMS:.....

Language of LMS:.....

Number of years in use: 4 years.....

Other LMSs used: Trialled WebCT.....

Number of students in the system: 140.....

Number of courses available: 6.....Typical duration: 3 year..

Number of tutors in the system: 4.....

*This analysis is divided into six parts.*

**1 Course development tools**

**2 Student support tools**

**3 Tutor support tools**

**4 Administration (student database and records)**

**5 Technology (quality of software)**

**6 Price**

**1 Course development tools**

1.1 *Course creation.* How satisfactory was the LMS for course creation?

Excellent, fast and simple

1.2 *Structure and didactic flexibility - openness.* In the creation of course materials did the LMS permit didactic flexibility? Was the structure open to differing didactic possibilities?

Yes

1.3 *Teacher userfriendliness.* How easy was the LMS to use by teachers and course developers?

*Extremely easy*

1.4 *Support for graphics, audio and video, moving image.* Did the LMS support the provision of graphical materials, moving images, audio and video in the course content?

*No because it was a free site, just used it to download powerpoint and word documents*

1.5 *Questioning, assessment, assignments.* What provision was made by the LMS for student questioning and assessment and the design of student assignments?

Yes

## **2 Student support tools**

2.1 *Interactivity possibilities.* What provision does the LMS make for student interaction?

*Very good with Chatroom and Discussion Board*

2.2 *Online student to student communication (synchronous and asynchronous).* What facilities does the LMS provide for student communication to other students and how successful is it? Is both synchronous and asynchronous communication between students supported?

*Good facilities, very successful  
Both supported*

2.3 *Online student to tutor/institution communication (synchronous and asynchronous).* What facilities does the LMS provide for student communication to the tutor or to the institution's administration and how successful is it? Is both synchronous and asynchronous communication supported? Are these support services available 24 hours a day?

*As above  
Yes*

2.4 *Resources, library, references.* What facilities does the LMS provide for student acquisition of resources required by the course, especially library resources and references to required readings?

*Up to individual tutor to create links to library.  
Good support references from blackboard*

2.5 *Feedback on work and assignments.* What is the quality of provision of feedback to students on their work and assignments?

*Excellent, particularly usage statistics*

### **3 Tutor Support tools**

3.1 *Tracking students - database questions.* How user friendly is the LMS for tutors wishing to track their group(s) of students and retrieve data from the student database?

Very easy and efficient

3.2 *Group management tools.* What facilities are provided by the LMS to the tutors for managing their group(s) of students?

*Excellent*

3.3 *Preparation of questions and assignments by tutor.* How successful is the LMS in providing tutors with user friendly and didactically successful tools for the design of student questions and assignments?

*Excellent*

3.4 *Course planning for students (monitoring pace).* What tools are provided by the LMS to tutors to enable them to monitor and plan student progress?

*More facilities provided when the site is paid for*

3.5 *User-friendly administrative systems between tutor and institution.* What provision does the LMS make for successful tutor to institution communication?

*Don't know – didn't have that feature*

#### **4 Administration (student database and records)**

4.1 *Enrolment procedures and fee paying.* What facilities does the LMS provide for student enrolments, course allocations and payment of fees?

*Separate systems here*

*Got the students to log on themselves*

*Next time would go for Tutors logging them on*

4.2 *Passwords and security.* How successfully does the LMS handle student access to the system and the security of all student interactions with the system?

*Apparently good*

4.3 *Student records database.* How successful is the system's student database, especially for data storage and data retrieval.

*Feature not used*

4.4 *Examination and certification records.* What structures are provided for recording of data and results leading to examination and certification?

*Feature not used*

4.5 *Course, class and tutors database.* What facilities are provided for administration of courses, classes and tutors?

## **5 Technology (quality of software)**

5.1 *Server - hardware and software options.* What is the quality of server hardware and software options? How is the system integrated with existing software?

*Not applicable as I used blackboard's server*

5.2 *Client - hardware and software options.* What is the quality of client hardware and software options? Does the system permit metatagging?

*Don't know  
Allows for metadata*

5.3 *Flexibility of didactic structure; updating, adaptability.* Is the didactic structure flexible or is it determined by the technology? How adaptable is the technology to updates and to new technology that becomes available to the market?

*Don't know*

5.4 *Limitation of size (number of students, courses, tutors..)* How satisfactory is the LMS for handling varying numbers of students, courses, tutors? How does it cope with 100, 1000, or 10000 students and large course databases?

*Limited to 5mb on the free site – but unlimited students (I think)*

5.5 *Speed of system.* How is the speed of the system and student satisfaction?  
How does it cope with downloading courses and high bandwidth materials?

*Dependent on modem, very good internally but complaints from students working from home*

## **6 Price**

6.1 *Cost of the LMS (Learning Management System).* What is the cost of the LMS to the institution?

*Free up to June 2002-06-12  
\$295 per course per annum after that date*

6.2 *Annual fee.* What fees have to be paid annually for the system by the institution?

*None*

6.3 *Student Enrolment fee (100 students, 1000 students, 10000 students.)* How do fees to use the LMS vary when the student base is 100 students, 1000 students, 10000 students? Is online invoicing available?

*None*

6.4 *Maintenance costs: staff involved in management, IT specialists, trainers, etc*  
What is the maintenance course to the institution of the LMS and what staff resources are need to maintain it and keep it functioning?

*Don't know*

6.5 *Training of teachers and learners and system users.* What costs are involved in staff and student training to use the LMS system?

Don't know but spent a lot of time being self-taught!

**Conclusion: Overall evaluation:**

**Blackboard was very simple and easy to use, would recommend it.**

**What features would you like to see included in this LMS in the future?**

**Integration with other systems – student records, examinations, photos, more security, faster speeds**