

Accessibility Essentials 3: Creating Accessible Presentations

Most of us use PowerPoint at some point in our working practice and it is important to ensure that when you create presentations accessibility issues are considered. This excellent guidance material provides information on the creation of accessible presentations, both for projection and wider use (for example, when a presentation is made available online) along with hints and tips on how to present to an audience in an accessible manner. The guide concentrates on the use of Microsoft® PowerPoint and complements Accessibility Essentials 1 & 2 which focus on MSWord, PDF files and a range of browsers. Order your free Accessibility Essentials Packs directly from TechDis on 01904 717580, alternatively access it online from the resources & references link at:

<http://www.techdis.ac.uk/>

New look News-Feed

NewsFeed is a fortnightly service, from the two JISC Regional Support Centres in Scotland, designed to keep the FE community informed about the latest ICT-related news, events, resources and training.

It has been designed to minimise the amount of email traffic you get by collating interesting and relevant information and presenting it concisely with electronic links to the full articles - all this delivered straight to your inbox every other Tuesday afternoon.

To subscribe, email us with the subject Newsfeed
support@rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk

e-Learning Questions? JISC Ask!

Q: I'd like to create some student activities that exploit resources that I've found on the Web but I don't have regular access to a computer lab. I'm not sure where to start can you make any suggestions.

A: I know it's sometimes difficult to organise access to computers and plan when you will require them in the context of a traditionally organised unit or course. My advice would be to keep it simple at the start and try to encourage your learners to investigate topics in a semi structured way by distributing activity sheets as "Word" documents. Feedback sessions to discuss, focus, contextualise and consolidate the topic can follow on. It is easy to insert a link to a website (hyperlink) by typing in the web address or copying and pasting the web address from the address bar in your browser. Press the space bar and the link will become active and change to blue, underlined text which links to the site.

A series of questions with links to appropriate information sources means that your learners will be pointed to sites that you have selected but will not be restricted to them if they wish to find others. It will allow you to exploit visually stimulating sites that can potentially include multimedia, quizzes and games if appropriate but does not involve learning a new software package or having specialist skills.

If you would like to send in a question about using technology or e-Learning, we would be happy to help and if we use your question you will receive one of our pen drives with a JISC lanyard - JISC for the asking!

E-mail your questions to:
support@rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk



In ConTact

RSC's - Stimulating and Supporting Innovation in Learning

New Session, New Look



Summer has been a busy time for the team here at the Regional Support Centre. As well as planning our activities for the coming year we have been reviewing, revising & rewriting our website which went live on the 1st of August. We are sure the site is greatly improved with many pages updated and new sections introduced but please let us know if you can't find your favourite page or item and we'll make sure that everything you need is there.

The team are also delighted to welcome back Theresa Duffy who, as well as co-ordinating some of our established user groups, has taken on new responsibilities for our support for the Higher Education sector in the West of Scotland both in traditional HE Institutions and also for HE delivered within the FE curriculum.



It is over the summer period that the team here at the RSC plan our activities for the coming year. There are a number of issues demanding attention - learning space design, more new technologies and inevitably their impact on learning & teaching, and planning how everything fits together.

Summer has been a busy time for the team here at the Regional Support Centre. As well as planning our activities for

To help staff get to grips with it all we are establishing a number of new forums this year. Some forums are already established and others will get going after the October break. Watch this space.

Another innovation is RSCtv where we will "broadcast" live 20 minute programmes every fortnight on a hot topic. It will be run as a pilot this term but will become a regular feature if it proves popular. We are working with COLEG to roll out the COLA formative assessment bank and running workshops to support it. We are also supporting the SOLAR project from SQA and will be able to help colleges with the strategic issues associated with online assessment.

As ever our training workshops reflect new and current developments in learning technologies and useful software with the focus squarely on the application of them to learning & teaching. A range of accessibility workshops are scheduled to support all staff across the college to deal with this important issue. We look forward too to working with HMLE colleagues in assisting and supporting the sector to implement effective practice in the use of technology for learning & teaching. So we've plenty to do and look forward to working with all of you over the new session.



Charles Sweeney, Manager

Contents

New Session, New Look

RSC Training & Events

Federated Access Management

RSCtv

eAssessment News

Forums & User Groups

A Date with Mr Moodle

INUK Freewire IPTV Service

Accessibility Essentials 3

New look NewsFeed

JISC Ask

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RSC Training & Events

SEPTEMBER 2007

14th Business Continuity & Communications via JANET
27th What a Wonderful World: An Introduction to Web 2.0 tools for teaching & learning

OCTOBER 2007

16th & 17th Dreamweaver Essentials
18th Writing for the Web
24th An Introduction to eAssessment using the COLA resources (am)
26th A Date with Mr Moodle
29th Creating eLearning materials (hairdressing & beauty)

NOVEMBER 2007

1st Teaching with an interactive whiteboard (am)
9th Using eAssessment tools for effective teaching & learning
12th What a Wonderful World: An Introduction to Web 2.0 tools for teaching & learning
22nd An Introduction to eAssessment using the COLA resources (am)

DECEMBER 2007

4th Firewalls planning & implementation
4th Managing IT Security
6th Creating eLearning materials (core skills)
7th Integrating eAssessments into teaching using CourseGenie
11th Using eAssessment tools for effective teaching & learning

For more information visit:
www.rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk/events.htm

Federated Access Management



Identity management is becoming ever more important as many more learning resources & research papers become available online. Provided across many locations by many service providers it's becoming difficult to look after IDs and passwords for different users.

This is where Federated Access Management comes in. With a single user ID and password provided by your local college or university IT dept, the full range of materials your institution is licensed for becomes available, whether hosted on campus or on remote publisher servers. The RSC is investigating the impact this step change could make to your institution in terms of management & technical issues. If you are involved with learning resource management or IT technical support you may well benefit from signing up to the FAM-Scotland forum. This Forum is aimed at assisting in the development and implementation of a FAM campus strategy and supporting the management and technical issues that will no doubt arise across your institution.

Support will include workshops, discussions online and the encouragement of collaboration between the FE & HE community in South West Scotland. We will seek the advice from more experienced FAM practitioners and disseminate our findings to the forum.

To sign up to the west of Scotland forum please email us at support@rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk with the subject FAM-SW-Scotland Forum.



This year the team at the RSC Scotland south & west plan to hold live online information sessions to keep you up to date with elearning issues, delivered directly to your own workstation.

Take a note of these dates in your diary and tune in to one of two 20 minute live lunchtime sessions either at 12:30 or when it's repeated at 13:30.

Here's the schedule for the Autumn term.

Tuesday 23 October 2007: Ditch the Dross: how to Google better
Tuesday 06 November 2007: FAM at last: what you need to know about Federated Access Management
Tuesday 20 November 2007: Resources to Support Access and Inclusion
Tuesday 04 December 2007: RSCtv: Do it yourself

What you'll need:

- A computer with internet connection
- A set of headphones
- A cup of coffee
- A quiet place to tune out, and tune in

So kick off your shoes, relax, sit right down and forget daytime TV, instead have a look at RSCtv! - To find out how to login to RSCtv contact: support@rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk

eAssessment News Forums & User Groups

You may remember being asked to contribute to an eAssessment questionnaire that we ran during May this year. We were asked to conduct the questionnaire by the Scottish Funding Council, and it was aimed at finding out how eAssessment is being used by academic staff in the FE sector. The report is now available to download from the eAssessment section of our website and we'd be pleased to get feedback from you so please contact Celeste at the RSC with any comments. If you are interested in finding out more about eAssessment then come along to our workshops which we are running during the next few months. Further details about the eAssessment workshop series can be found on the events section of our website.

<http://www.rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk/events.htm>

This new academic session sees the expansion of our existing forums and user groups in order to provide opportunities for a wider range of staff to listen to and share examples of effective practice. As well as focusing on the hot topics of the day our forums and user groups aim to encourage innovation and collaboration between organisations. Some forums and user groups are organised jointly with our sister RSC based at Telford College.

BlackBoard User Group (BUG)
Federated Access Management (FAM-SW-Scotland)
Inclusion in eLearning Forum
Learning Space Design Forum
Scottish Moodle User Group (SMUG)
Web 2.0 Forum
West of Scotland eCurriculum Forum
West of Scotland Technical Forum

For more information on this service please visit our website or contact support@rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk if you are interested in joining any of the forums or user groups.

A Date with Mr Moodle

Make a note in your diary to be at the University of Glasgow on October 26th for an inspirational talk by Martin Dougiamas.

Martin is best known as the big guy from Australia who created Moodle, the open source course management system that is used by thousands of institutions around the world, including the University of Glasgow! This event has been organised jointly by the Learning & Technology Unit at the Learning & Teaching Centre of the University of Glasgow and the two JISC Regional Support Centres for Scotland. It will appeal to all Moodlers, elearners, educators and anyone interested in hearing why Martin Dougiamas loves his job so much that he jumps out of bed every morning!

We are expecting a large response for this event, so be sure to note your interest early. To request a place at the event, please send an email to support@rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk



INUK Freewire IPTV Service

After a successful trial UKERNA and INUK have signed an agreement enabling INUK to deliver its IPTV Freewire service to JANET connected organisations directly over JANET.

To access the service a software client requires to be downloaded onto a PC with no aeriels, receivers or servers needed on site.

The encoding system used reduces the bandwidth requirements for each channel so that the streams require approx half the bandwidth of an MPEG2 stream.

The package on offer includes:

- Licensed re-broadcasting of UK free-to-air channels.*
- Licensed delivery of UK premium channels and on-demand content.*
- A full range of licensed international channels.*
- A dedicated TV channel for organisational video content.*
- Digital Asset Management and Channel Management for organisations needing support to create or re-purpose their own content.*

Further details from www.inuknetworks.com
www.ja.net/development/iptv

If you would like to discuss this service or any other UKERNA service please contact Mark Clark
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