STEP 2007 Opening Session
Update on e-Learning

by

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Outline

- A Brief Recap
- Future Direction
Meeting the Challenge of Change

Strategic Plan 2003–2008
“CityU has always recognised the importance of information technologies in teaching, research, and administration. We intend to further enrich the environment for student learning by making maximum use of the opportunities created by these technologies and to bring more services to staff and students on-line and in real time.”
City University of Hong Kong

Committee on Information Services and Technology

Information Services Strategic Plan 2005-2010

3 May 2005
IS Strategic Plan

Four Key Areas:
- A Unified e-Learning Platform
- Knowledge Management
- Institutional Data Management
- Web and Portal Strategy
4 Cornerstones:

- Infra-structure
- Integration
- Immersion
- Innovation
IT Development at CityU

  - IT Infra-structure

- **Stage 2 (2000 – 2005)**
  - Integrated Administrative System

- **Stage 3 (2005 – 2010)**
  - Unified e-Learning Platform
Better hardware and software

- Highly Available, Reliable, Secure, and Automated Network and Systems
- Standardized on server/client hardware platforms and applications

Integration and Consolidation

- Consolidation of Network, Servers, Storage, Data, & Applications.
- Integration of User Interface, Application, Information, Process

Better & Cost-effective management

- Policies, Resources, Systems, Operations, ITIL
- Outsource
Integrated Administrative System

- Summer 1997  Installed Banner Student
- Spring 1998  Student System went live
- Spring 1999  Web for Student/Faculty went live
- Spring 2000  Acquire Banner HR
- Spring 2001  HR went live
- Summer 2001  Acquire Banner Development
- Winter 2001  Development went live
- Fall 2002   Campus Pipeline went live
Delivery of Services via WEB

- **Personal services**
  - available to individual staff and students

- **Management functions**
  - provided to users in academic departments, central administration and service units
Objective

Helping CityU meet the future needs of education for professional careers, where new technologies are rapidly transforming the workplace, and to create a quality life for faculty and student in a student-centered learning environment supported by technology.
The e-Learning Project

- First emphasis of the ISSP 2005-2010

- A student-centred learning environment supported by technology.

- Consolidation of resources with cross-functional support for a single e-Learning platform for the University.

- Encouragement for teachers to extend their learning resources in a step-wise fashion.
Phased Implementation

- Communications and Training for staff and students

- Completed Phases
  - Phases 1 & 2 – 2005-06

- Just Completed
  - Phase 3 – Semester A 2006-07

- In Progress
  - Phase 4 – Semester B 2006-07
Phase 1
- Launched at the start of Sem A 2005-06
- Production & Staging systems deployed
- WebCT & Bb5 course sites converted/migrated
- 24 organization sites with 4461 users on pilot use
- Usage
  - 632 courses with Bb sites (45% of courses offered)
  - 787 instructors & over 21000 students

Phase 2
- Launched at Semester B 2005-06
- Bb e-Portal replaced the old one, campus pipeline
- Upgrade to Bb version 6.3
- Usage
  - 821 Courses with Bb sites (55% of total courses offered)
  - 1130 instructors & 21340 students
Phase 3 – just completed

- Started in September 2006
- All credit-bearing courses have corresponding Bb course sites created automatically
- Chinese deployment with version 7
- Emphasis on the pedagogical use of e-learning
- Deployment of organization sites for departments and programme use
Organic vs. Planned Adoption of e-Learning

Organic Adoption
- Organic/Exploratory Adoption
- Initially driven by End Users
- End User Plateau
- Strategic Phase Necessary for continued growth

Planned Adoption
- Planned/Foundational Adoption
- Initially driven by Executive Sponsor
- Accelerated growth
- Strategic planning upfront

We want to get here
We are here now
Phase 4 – in progress

- For Semester B 2006-07
- Content Collection Deployment
  - My Content
  - My Portfolios
- Deployment of organization sites for departments and programme use
- Promotion of e-learning assisted student-centered activities for OBTL
CityU’s Blackboard Academic Suite

Three components of CityU’s Blackboard

- e-Portal, Course site (LMS), Content Collection

Course sites, i.e. Courses I am enrolled or teaching listed in the module, My Blackboard course sites.

Organisation sites e.g. department, programme, orientation, research projects & etc

Content Collection i.e. My Content, Course Content, Organisation Content, Institution Content

My Portfolios i.e. users can create, edit, review, comment & share portfolios.
Bb Content Collection Structure

Content related
- My Content
- Course Content
- Organisation Content
- Institution Content
- Library

Functions/Tools
- e-Portfolio
- Learning objects?
- Workflow
- Search
- View modes
My Content

- Owner: Individual Student/Staff member of CityU
  - have full control.
- Quota: Time-based, 50MB/year
- Duration:
  - Ends when formal association with CityU finished
Course/Organization Content

- **Automatically generated** according to the setting of the Learning Management System
- Owner: “Instructor/Leader” (*role dependent*)
  - <= course/org content manager
- Quota: 200MB
- Duration:
  - Instance of the course
  - Life-cycle same as that of the course
Example: ELC0112 - Course materials place in LMS & CMS (Course Content)

- Saved in LMS
- Space: Only have 200MB
Current portfolio development at CityU

- Bb portfolio function is available with the current version of Bb that CityU adopts.

- It was made available only to a few groups of people as pilot:
  - TDG – English Language Portfolio
  - L2L - Learning to Learn
  - Courses
    - EL0211 Independent learning portfolio
    - EN5611 Internet Communication
  - CS & SDS
  - SA Goodies and Excellence (SAGE)

- My Content and My Portfolio features released for general use

- Workshops for both staff and students

- Stability & performance of Bb portfolio function are monitored
Other Uses of Blackboard

- Student Orientation sites
- Exchange students site
- Departmental communications
  - An organization site for each department
- Programme management
  - An organization site for each programme
- Hostel management
- Committees administration
- Research collaboration
- External collaboration
- Other staff-managed activities
Future Direction

- Maintaining Performance with Growth
  - Performance tuning
  - Capacity Planning

- Enriching the e-Learning Platform
  - Anti-plagiarism
    - Turnitin, Safe Assignment
  - Language enhancement
    - Wimba, Tell Me More, ...
  - Interactive learning activities
    - Blogs & Wikis (Campus Pack)
  - Student self-learning
    - Backpack

- Outcomes application
End-Users

Personal Productivity - email, wp, etc

Web services

e-learning

Information-bases – Scholarly information. Institutional data

Infrastructure – 24 x 7 Utility

Information Services Delivery to the End-Users
Thank you!