Teaching Web Design for Mobile Devices in the NEXT Classroom

A Proposal to the
Instructional Development Committee

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Overview of the Project

To equip students to work within the Web industry, our Web Technology curriculum must necessarily grow and change. Although the Internet as we know it is only two decades old, the changes it has witnessed are astounding and the changes will undoubtedly escalate. Full Sail, a Florida-based technology university, reports that “due to unprecedented changes in technology, we are continuously updating our web-related courses.” To that end, the WEB Technology program is undergoing a radical redesign during the fall of 2010.

To remain competitive, the Web Technology concentration has to remain current. One exciting frontier in web design that PSCC has yet to tap is designing web content for mobile devices. Google, Microsoft and Yahoo! have recognized the potential of this market and are making great efforts to promote mobile commerce to users and advertisers. Forty per cent of all Internet users today have mobile Internet access which means mobile Internet users could represent more than 20 percent of a web site’s traffic. To ensure that PSCC’s Web Technology curriculum is at the forefront of this trend, I am developing a Web Technology course in this exciting field of mobile web design. Students in the other concentrations of Media Technology may be interested in the course as well as members of the community seeking to update their web design skills. Perhaps PSTCC faculty would be interested in this course as it relates to delivering course content on mobile devices. This course (WEB 2700 PC1) has been approved by Pellissippi State’s Curriculum Development Committee and is to be offered fall 2010 [tentatively scheduled for MW, 10:45-12:05].

I propose teaching this course in the NEXT classroom. The cutting edge equipment in this exciting new classroom will foster a sense of wonder and discovery worthy of a course whose instructional content will necessarily change at a dizzying pace.

Additional Project Information and Rationale

Students taking WEB 2700 will benefit from the state-of-the-art technology used in the NEXT classroom. Here are some of the features that could be used to enhance the students’ learning experiences:

- Interactive whiteboard and uniboard system –
  - Students can view and critique sample web designs as well as finished student projects
    - Using the Aver+ pens to “markup” designs displayed on whiteboard wall
    - Using split screens to allow multiple critiques at the same time
  - Video is easily viewable without distracting ads
Mobility of the instructor is enhanced—I can move around the room with handheld mouse controls for audio and video as well as handheld mobile devices (such as iPad, iTouch, Blackberrys, cell phones, etc.)

- Dual display capabilities: computer display for Web codes coupled with clear projection of the mobile device display
- aVerKey Pens
  - On-the-fly polling for student opinion/quizzes
  - Mouse control on multiple surfaces for up to eight (8) students
- Laptop cart with dual boot computers (students will not be limited to learning on one computer platform; will learn both PC and Mac) with wireless networking
- Modular furniture—students can move furniture to comfortably view mobile devices and/or projections
- Whiteboard paint on walls—allows unlimited note space
- Lecture/Demonstration recording capabilities
  - Recorded lectures/demos for posting to D2L or YouTube
  - Students can download lectures/demos about mobile devices to their mobile devices
- Airliner—additional notations can be made on computer displayed content

All of these technologies will prove helpful in demonstrating web pages, web design, and mobile device digital displays. They will enhance our ability to visually critique design.

Up to twenty-four (24) students will take WEB 2700 during the fall 2010 semester. Pending a positive evaluation of the project, I would like to propose teaching this course in this classroom for many semesters to come.

Project Evaluation

I will be available to the ETS staff for evaluation of equipment and technology during the teaching of this course. In addition, students will complete an evaluation of the technology and its use in the NEXT classroom at the end of fall semester. Evaluation results will be compiled and presented to the IDC for review no later than January 31, 2011.

Budget

This proposal is solely for use of the NEXT classroom. No costs will be incurred.