

Introducing a Presentation Tool for use by students: a Comparative Study of two units with different types of students

Illuminate Live! (eLive) was selected as the synchronous communications tool for Deakin University in Melbourne, Australia. It aims to enhance both on- and off-campus learning as it facilitates communication and collaboration between staff and students.

eLive is a world -class, real-time training, demonstration and collaboration environment that is powerful, flexible and easy to use. It enables the delivery of live, online learning, training, coaching, mentoring and meetings. Effectiveness is increased by engaging participants by providing in one intuitive, graphical interface:

- the ability to talk over the Internet
- chat via text online
- share video
- whiteboards
- multimedia files
- application sharing

Two units have been chosen for this study, one is a business unit and another one is an IT unit. Students for both units were required to record their presentation (powerpoint and verbal) using eLive.

The objective of the assessment task and its delivery mode was to:

- extend students' awareness of the complexity of communication and effective communication
- provide an opportunity for students to develop their oral presentation skills
- develop their analytical skills in explaining a the application of the subject matter
- enhance their skills in using on line technologies

This study investigated the number of recordings performed by students and outlines some of the issues faced by students . For example:

- Unable to access eLive due to Firewall issue
- Unable to login to eLive due to incorrect password
- One off exercise but students were required to have a microphone or headset . Some students had to purchase this.
- Confusion about how to retrieve recording.

In summary, a new application such as eLive should be introduced to students in stages along with structure, detailed instructions to help staff and students getting to know the application. It appears from this study, that the theory that Gen X are more willing and confident to take up new technologies than Gen Y. This should be explored further as eLive is implemented at Deakin.