VENDOR VOICE

Profit from the Power of Web Training!

by Brenda Wiechmann

s most companies now know, there are dramatic changes sweeping through the Web marketplace. Internet Based Training (IBT) provides a very exciting and cost-effective method of training, directly from the student's desktop, using only a standard web browser. Training a new hire can begin the first day without any concerns for scheduling a class or decisions about travel time and expenses. Companies who want to remain competitive will need to provide more training at reduced costs and Web training seems to be an excellent solution.

ESI Technology Corp. has recently released its first IBT course, Windows NT, and is scheduled to release its second course, Object Oriented Concepts, in the very near future. As most of our readers know, ESI has provided Computer Based Instruction (CBI) courses to the M community for the past 14 years and now has a library of over 16 CBI's. Descriptions of these courses and other pertinent information can be found on ESI's web page: www.esitechnology.com. ESI will continue to build additional IBT courses, giving customers more options for training. Although CBI's have been very effective in the past, customers now have more access to the WEB and can take advantage of the many benefits of Internet Based Training (IBT).

Several key benefits of IBT training include:

Online Instructor—Registered students can simply send e-mail to online tutors, who respond directly to each question. This type of access allows students to feel much more connected with an instructor who can then provide the support and encouragement similar to that received in a classroom.

Cooperative Learning Environment—The ESI Campus allows students to interact with each other in "chat rooms" to share questions and comments. It is often helpful to know that there are other students taking the same course who can relate to the specific content, questions and features of the course. Using e-mail to "chat" with other students familiar with the course can also provide for a more effective learning style.

Supervisor Monitoring—The ESI "Online Campus" is accessible to the student's supervisor, so that the student's progress can be monitored if desired.

Graphics and Animations—Advanced web technology provides an opportunity to include exciting graphics and animations that can greatly enhance a student's ability to comprehend difficult concepts. Many off-the-shelf software packages such as Visio or Paint Shop Pro can be used to help students understand this information both visually and conceptually in an interesting and entertaining manner. By programming with HTML, an author can create moving objects, that make learning much more exciting and powerful.

Close Demonstration

Interactivity—An important key to the learning process is interactivity. This is built into lessons through questions, workshops, simulations as well as interaction with

Testing and Reporting-Students can immediately see

instructors, experts and others students through inte-

grated Discussion Groups, Help Desk and Messaging.

An example of one of the graphics in ESI's new Windows NT Web course is shown below:

how well they have mastered material. If results are less than satisfactory, they can review topics and try again. Students are constantly queried, to insure good progress. A pre-test and post-test evaluate the overall results, while ongoing quizzes keep students on their toes.

For a free sample of the new Windows NT Internet Based Training Course, please follow the instructions below:

Go to: <u>www.syberworks.com/esi/campus</u> Click on: Current Courses Click on: Course Sampler for Working with Windows NT Write in the user ID: esitechnology Write in the password: 81346

Visit: www.esitechnology.com for more information.

Brenda Wiechmann (bwiechmann@esitechnology.com) is CEO of ESI Technology Corp. in Natick, MA and has been working in the M community for over 14 years. She has a Master of Education degree and has worked in education for over 30 years. Brenda looks forward to receiving any questions or comments.

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