



E-LEARNING INNOVATION COMPETITION

On-demand access to video material in HE language learning : University of Worcester

For many years the University of Worcester Language Centre has been **recording free-to-air programmes** and making them available to students and staff for educational purposes. Students are increasingly getting used to being able to work where and when it suits them and are asking for this on-demand service.

We looked into various ways of providing easier access to off-air recorded audiovisual material, initially trying YouTube but then decided to experiment with the University VLE Blackboard.

A wide number of video formats were tested and the resulting video files were then placed online and people asked for their preference—the only videos that could be reliably viewed on all platforms were the Flash ones. The flash video also streamed reliably.

The program we chose for Flash encoding is Flash Video MX Pro by Moyea Software. The generated HTML code can be used as part of any normal webpage, including embedding the video into quizzes and assessment material.

Once we had converted the material to Flash, it could be **uploaded to Blackboard**. To provide easy access we added self-explanatory icons and readily recognisable buttons, such as a big 'Play' button on the video still to start the clip.

Feedback from students and staff

Both students and staff have indicated a strong preference for audiovisual material to be made available via the University's VLE.

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