

Computer-based Language Learning with Interactive Web Exercises

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Abstract

Beneath the use as a source of information the Internet is added used as a learning tool to support online learning programmes and interactive Web exercises. Much of the literature on Computer-based-Learning shows that one of the main barriers to create teaching materials is the difficult technology, so teachers need the help of an expert for planning, design, and delivery of Web based learning programmes and exercises.

To create easily interactive Web exercises for Language Learning the Language Centre of the University of Victoria/Canada developed a Web authoring software named Hot Potatoes. This authoring software is a Web site development system that allows Web pages to be visually created without programming knowledge. The software helps the author to develop interactive exercises and generates the HTML- and JavaScript codes for the Web pages in the background. The interactive Web exercises can be viewed and used in a browser in Internet, intranet or from different data mediums. Such interactive Web exercises improve learning and are more enjoyable and meaningful for learners than traditional exercises on paper.

The Hot Potatoes software consists of six different programmes for creating interactive multiple-choice, short-answer, jumbled-sentence, crossword, matching/ordering and gap-fill exercises. Hot Potatoes is offered to state educational institutions by the Language Centre of the University of Victoria and is free for use by these organisations, which are non-profit making, on the condition that the Web exercises produced using the software is freely available to anyone via Internet. Hot Potatoes software can be downloaded for Windows and for Apple from the University website <http://web.uvic.ca/hrd/halfbaked/> and is available in different languages. The site includes beneath the download, news, support, links to Hot Potatoes web pages, tutorials and answers to frequently asked questions.