

More Possibilities with Chamilo 2: Innovation Tailored for Learners and Teachers

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Abstract

Chamilo 2 is a new open source, easy to use, extensible, e-learning and collaboration platform which will improve your way of learning. The name 'Chamilo' refers to 'Chameleon': it provides a smooth integration in your current workflow (business or educational). The Chamilo 2 platform has been officially released in December 2010. Based on the experience with Chamilo 2 in our organization this presentation will show how this flexible platform can be used in e-learning and in distance language courses. The basic concept is to publish content objects from a central repository (e-disk). Both teacher and student can choose from 70 content objects. Collaboration is made easy because every content object can be shared with other users. The work area of each user is highlighted: an adaptable homepage. Different content objects are explained: Portfolio, Course, Assessment, Learning Path, Document, External repositories.

1. Introduction

This presentation will show how Chamilo 2 can be used in a blended learning language class. The class is organised as 60% face to face teaching and 40% distance teaching. Chamilo 2 makes it easy to integrate the 4 abilities (reading, writing, listening and speaking) also in the online classes. Every user has his own repository, a central content management system to store all the content objects created by the user, such as documents, various types of assessment, and all possible types of simple and complex learning objects. Chamilo 2 also brings the web 2.0 into the platform by connecting to external repositories as YouTube, Google Docs, Picasa etc.

2. Concept

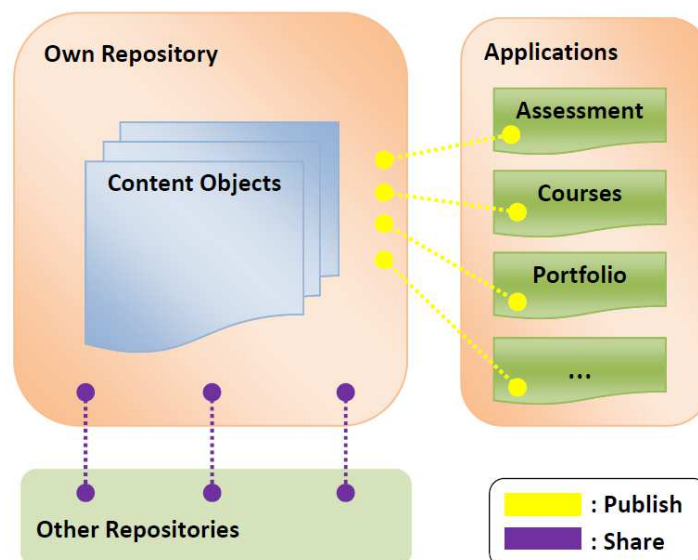


Fig. 1 concept of Chamilo 2

In the repository, the teacher can create more than 70 kinds of content objects, organized in the following groups: assessment, collaboration, diary, documents, media, news, peer assessment and videoconferencing.

The philosophy is "store once, use many": once a content object has been created, it can be published in other applications such as assessment, courses, portfolio and it can be shared with colleagues. No need to copy the content object or to upload it several times.

There are different sharing levels: use, reuse and collaborate. When content objects are shared as 'Use', the creator remains the owner of the content object: colleagues can use it, but can't change it. 'Reuse' allows shared users to change the content object. With Collaborate several users can work together on the same content object.

3. Homepage

Every user has a fully adaptable homepage where different blocks can be added. Each Chamilo 2 user can completely personalize the homepage with links to his courses, assessments, assignments, RSS feeds, the personal messenger integrated in the system and so on. In this way, the LMS becomes more and more a PLE, a personal learning environment.

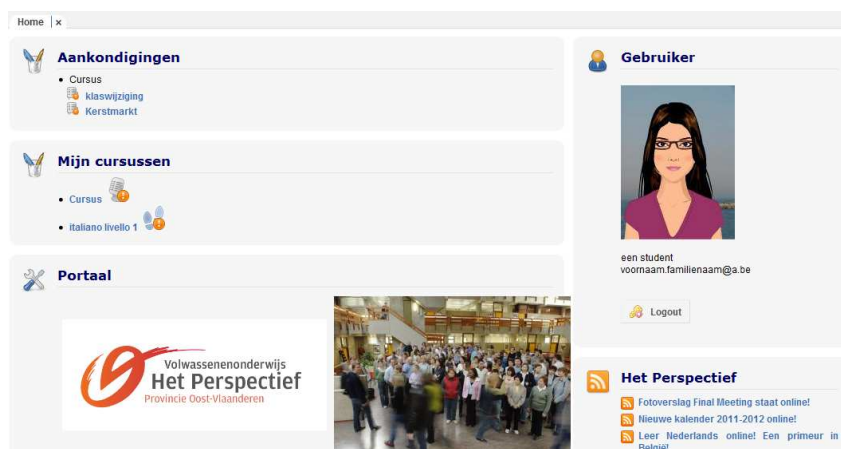


Fig. 2 Homepage

4. Course

Generally content objects are published in a course.



Fig. 3 Tools available in a course

Students have the possibility to give immediate feedback on every content object published in a course. This stimulates the interaction between student-teacher.

Firenze

Search this site for a museum you would like to visit

<http://www.firenzeturismo.it/it/>

Published on September 01, 2011 at 07:55 PM By dominique teacher for Everybody



Feedback

comment 



Fig. 4 Feedback window

5. Learning path

In order to guide the students, the online class is organized in learning paths.

The teacher can easily cope with different learning styles, by offering the same content in different ways: as reading material, as audio files, as a video file.

The 4 abilities can be fully integrated in the learning path.

5.1. Reading

The most common content objects to create reading exercises are text documents (Word or PDF) or websites. Websites are immediately displayed in the platform, so a student doesn't lose time searching the internet.

5.2. Listening

The teacher can easily insert MP3 files which are displayed in an online player and can be included in listening exercises and assessments.

5.3. Writing

The tools that can be used here are a forum, a wiki, a blog, all of them integrated in the platform.

5.4. Speaking

The speaking ability is often neglected in distance learning, although there are a lot of tools that can be used to enhance this ability. Here we use an external tool that is completely integrated in the system.



Fig. 5 voice recorder

6. Portfolio

Students can post their assessments, tasks, progress in their own e-portfolio which can be shared with teachers or other users.

7. External repositories

Several external repositories can be addressed, such as YouTube, Google Docs, Picasa,...

The objects in these repositories can be viewed and imported as a new content object in the Chamilo 2 repository.