

Employing an On-line Learning Environment

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Introduction

- Introduction to Excel course – school had already asked me to run.
- School is already using Moodle as their VLE
- I have been training our staff to use Moodle for their courses
- It would be advantageous to develop a standard class room based lesson / training course into a purely on-line experience, as an example for the staff I am training in the use of the VLE.

Target User group

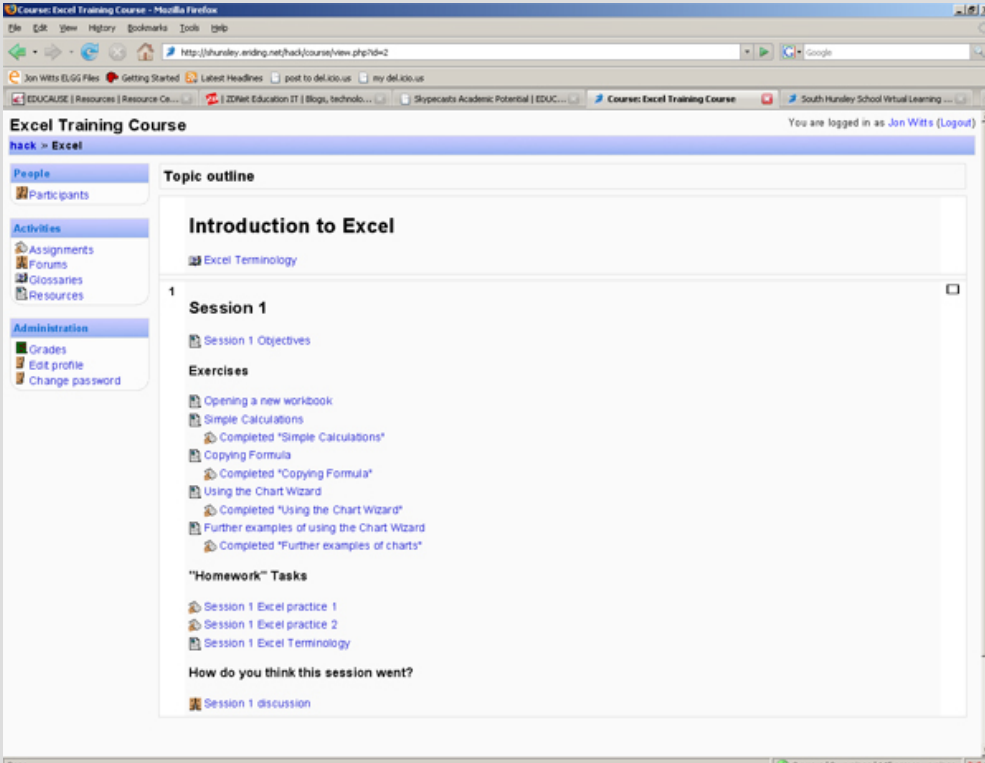
- Support staff at the school and Teaching Assistants would be the main people who would take this course.
- The course is intended to give the user a basic introduction into the use of Microsoft Excel

The platform used

- Moodle
 - Open Source
 - Free software
 - Large user base
 - Free support
 - Large amount of built in modules
- Why used?
 - Already in place at the school
 - I had reviewed a large possibility of VLE's for the school and settled on Moodle
 - The adaptability and level of free support were deciding factors

Learner Demonstration

- <http://shunsley.eriding.net/hack/course/view.php?id=2>
- I will log in as a student to show how the course appears for them.

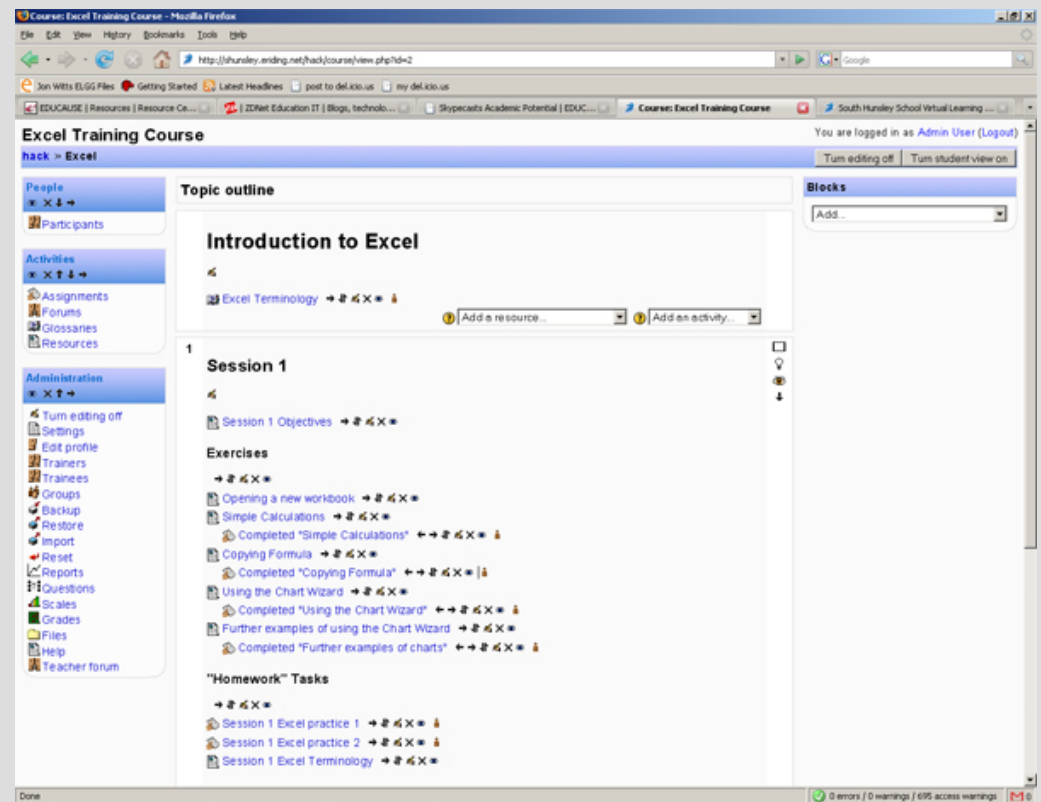


The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the 'Excel Training Course' page. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://shunsley.eriding.net/hack/course/view.php?id=2>. The page title is 'Excel Training Course' and the user is logged in as 'Jon Wits (Logout)'. The page layout includes a sidebar with navigation options: 'People' (Participants), 'Activities' (Assignments, Forums, Glossaries, Resources), and 'Administration' (Grades, Edit profile, Change password). The main content area is titled 'Topic outline' and shows the following structure:

- Introduction to Excel**
 - Excel Terminology
- 1 Session 1**
 - Session 1 Objectives
 - Exercises**
 - Opening a new workbook
 - Simple Calculations
 - Completed "Simple Calculations"
 - Copying Formula
 - Completed "Copying Formula"
 - Using the Chart Wizard
 - Completed "Using the Chart Wizard"
 - Further examples of using the Chart Wizard
 - Completed "Further examples of charts"
 - "Homework" Tasks**
 - Session 1 Excel practice 1
 - Session 1 Excel practice 2
 - Session 1 Excel Terminology
 - How do you think this session went?**
 - Session 1 discussion

Tutor Demonstration

- <http://shunsley.eriding.net/hack/course/view.php?id=2>
- I will log in as a tutor to show how the course appears for them.



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Moodle interface for an "Excel Training Course". The user is logged in as "Admin User". The course page is titled "Excel Training Course" and shows a "Topic outline" for "Introduction to Excel". The outline includes sections for "Session 1", "Exercises", and "Homework Tasks". The "Exercises" section lists several activities, including "Opening a new workbook", "Simple Calculations", "Copying Formula", and "Using the Chart Wizard". The "Homework Tasks" section lists "Session 1 Excel practice 1", "Session 1 Excel practice 2", and "Session 1 Excel Terminology". The interface includes a left-hand navigation menu with options like "People", "Activities", and "Administration". The status bar at the bottom indicates "0 errors / 0 warnings / 695 access warnings".

Problems encountered

- The VLE itself was not problematic as we have been running Moodle at SHS for a year now.
- The change of emphasis from a class room based lesson to delivering content via the VLE
- How to provide effective feedback to students when they have a problem with the course

Evaluation Issues

- How best to evaluate an on-line course?
- Heuristics seem the best option...
- As the course has not been run as an on-line course, experienced users are required to gain an effective evaluation of the course.
(That's you!)
- Use the VLE itself to collect the results???
- Does that create more issues itself???
- Is the evaluation system simple and reliable enough to collect this data???