

Designing and Implementation of Academic Based Network Software for Federal Polytechnic Kaura Namoda

ABSTRACT

Aims: Design of an Academic Network Based Software for teaching, learning and more collaboration between the teachers and learners .

Study design: Mention the design of the study here.

Place and Duration of Study: Federal Polytechnic Kaura Namoda Zamfara State Nigeria 2021

Methodology: the designing of the online learning module of this kind using Agile software development method which is necessary in certain situations, especially where research and development is being conducted. It involves the development process of incremental and iterative approach from different schools in the institution which includes School of Business Management Studies, School of Engineering Technology, School of Science Technology, School of Environmental Science, School of General Studies respectively. The system was structured in module which includes Administrator, Instructor and Learner modules respectively.

Conclusion: It is expected that the new system will effectively and efficiently handle most of the problems of students learning experience and teacher mode of delivery of lectures in Federal Polytechnic Kaura Namoda.

Keywords: [Learner, Instructor, Assignment, Portal, Programming, intranet, Internet]

1. INTRODUCTION

The information Technological revolution has changed the native way of teaching and learning. You need not to be in the class to learn as a student or deliver your lectures as a teacher. Learning process has over the years evolving due to the dynamic nature of human and quest to improve our thoughts. eLearning have been evolving over a decade and still evolving as the level of its utilization is still low, must especially in the developing country like Nigeria. eLearning is the effective utilization of web technological experience toward effective delivering of educational activities. No any country has ever reached its economical potentials without education. eLearning, ilearning, online learning, and web-based training are used synonymously to mean same thing (Rao, 2011). (Emily Bagarukayo and Billy Kalema, 2015) observes that eLearning are made to improve the learning experience of the learning using web facilities by the use of computer and other electronic tools. Meanwhile, (Hamid et al. 2009) opined that learning 2.0 is an educational accomplishment which implores the creative usage of web tools that encourage produces different learning experience. They went further to highlight facilities used by the Learning 2.0, which includes web tools, social networking, self learning and self directed learning. It is the view of (Mlitwa,2006) that technology cannot and will never make a poor student brilliant notwithstanding the quality of the content, teacher and learning method. (Du et at., 2013) believes that Elearning is a learner's centered approach to teaching which has given

learners much better experience. He wants further to say that; it brings out innovative experience of the student.

Different Elearning activities has evolved over the years in Elearning, they includes self-paced, instructor-led and video. While the self-pace is the process whereby the learner is allowed to work through the resources learning on its own. The instructor-led is when an instructor engages learners and guides them through resources to perfection. Lastly, video learning is the act of having the instructor an learning interact through an online video streaming. Elearning was categorized (Gulch et al., 2012) into knowledge databases, online support, asynchronous learning and synchronous learning respectively.

A list of benefits has been highlighted from the usage of elearning, one which is that learners can choice to be taught at any place, any time, at their speed of assimilation (Solc et al., 2012). (Florea, 2010; Rao, 2011) observed that elearning is an important element in many knowledge economy country, because it has assisted government, cooperate bodies, individuals and educational institutions in becoming innovative and effectual in learning experience delivery. All these bodies deliver their training without thinking of the time or space for it (Welsh et al., 2009). It encourages a learner-centered learning which improves the collaborative learning, interaction and communication (Du et al., 2013) thereby giving learners enhanced academic experience.

It was expected that today's learning experience would have improved and pierce through developed, developing, and under developing countries of the world today, had it been that the rate at which the digital natives and digital immigrants (Prensky 2001) were embracing computer technology was given a full backing. But this is far from the truth as number of institutions who has adopted elearning is still low most especially in the developing world like us. Nigerian educational system is far to adopting that although some school has started using elearning.

Furthermore, Academic Network software properly designed for academic institution plays very important role in helping lecturer to integrate advance technology in delivering lectures to students. Considering the present methods of delivering lectures at Federal Polytechnic Kaura Namoda, lecturers either dictate their lecture notes or explain it verbally. The use of white board and projector are commonly referred to as application of Information Communication Technology in teaching, learning and research process. This approach is predominantly being adopted since the 1990s and being that we are in the 20th century, this approach of delivering lectures may not desirable by students any more with the high interest on social media.

2. MATERIAL AND METHODS / EXPERIMENTAL DETAILS / METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aim and Objectives of Study

This project is aimed at designing and developing an efficient on-line learning solution which will enable the student interact and work on their pace.

The objectives of the project are

- i. To design and implement an online learning tool.
- ii. To create an interacting element which facilitate student's learning experience
- iii. To design platform which makes teaching and evaluating students more easy

2.2 Methodology

The mode of teaching presently in Federal Polytechnic Kaura Namoda as mentioned earlier is by dictating noted, white marker board, and just about 0.009% is using projector which is very poor. This prompted the designing of the online learning module of this kind using Agile software development method. (O'sheedy D. G., 2012) holds that an agile method is necessary in certain situations, especially where research and development is being conducted.

2.3 Agile Software Development

The modules involved in the software is designed following Agile development process. Agile software development process involves incremental and iterative approach shown in the figure 1 below. The proposed system was broken down into five individual models which constitutes the five schools in Federal Polytechnic Kaura Namoda which includes the following

1. School of Business Management Studies.
2. School of Engineering Technology
3. School of Science Technology
4. School of Environmental Science
5. School of General Studies

These individual models follows the figure 1 approach for developing a system with good digital experience.

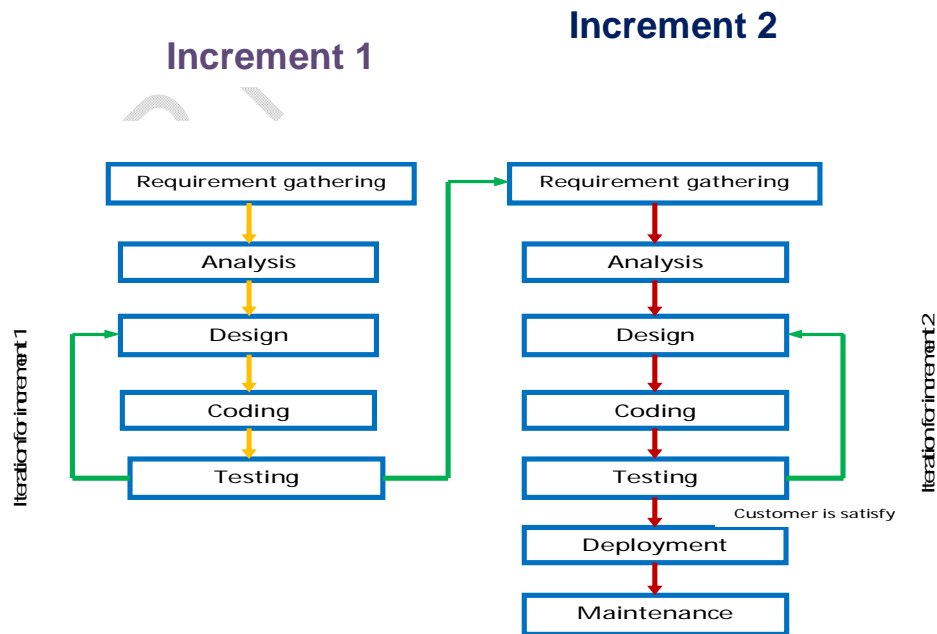


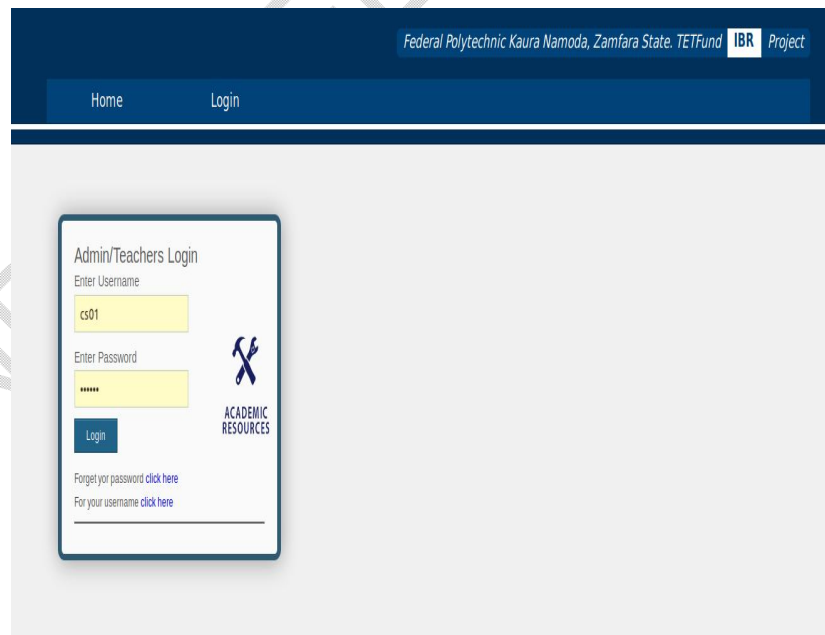
Figure 1. Agile software development cycle (t4tutoiral)

2.4 Proposed Methodology and System Design

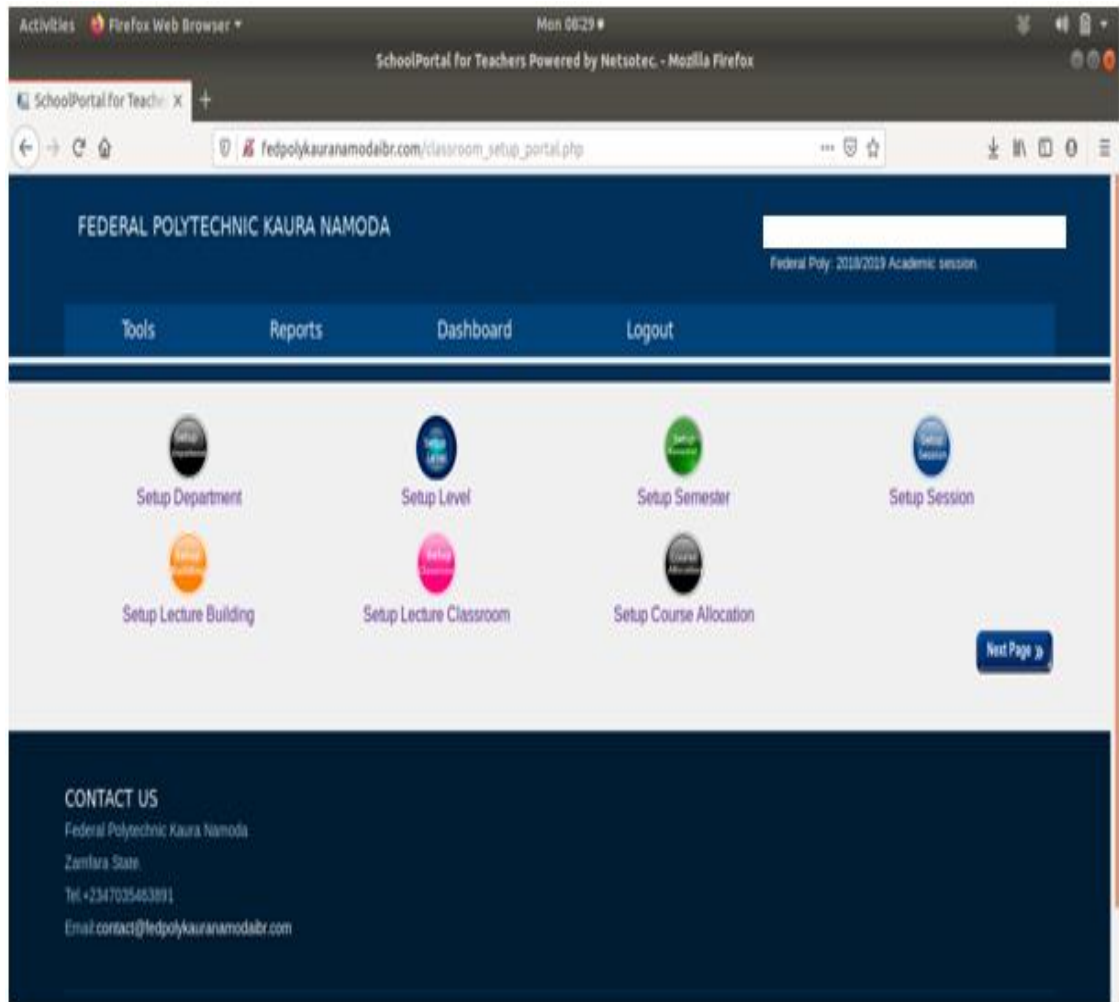
The Learning Content Management System (LCMS) of Federal polytechnic Kaura Namoda is designed with the following modules: Administrator, Instructor and Learner modules respectively.

i. Administrator Module

The element administrator (Admin) is the initiator of this system. His job is to add the following: department, courses, lecturers, student and also view reports from both the student and Lecturers respectively. They work as a supervisory element for all the activities, in fact they are termed to be the Head of various Departments here. Their major work is to coordinate and supervise departmental activities for efficiency and productivity. At the beginning of every semester, he registers the department, flags on the courses available for the semester, and the register those lecturers that will be taking the courses. Furthermore, they register student who are qualify to enroll for the available courses. The report on lecturer and student activities can also be viewed by the Admin. There is a security login interface which always requires them to enter password before being granted access for any changes in the admin portal, this is shown in figure 2a and figure 2b depicts the activities of Admin such as such departmental registration into the portal as in figure 2c.



(a)



(b)

FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC KAURA NAMODA

Tools Reports Dashboard Logout

Department information setup

Enter HOD surname
Eng. Richard

Enter HOD other names
Ogbi

Enter department name
Computer Science

Enter department slogan
Networking the World

Enter present session
2018/2019

Enter present semester
First Semester

Enter session start date
2019-02-01 00:00:00 Beginning of Session

Enter session end date
2019-12-04 00:00:00 End of Session

Enter semester start date
2019-11-01 00:00:00 Beginning of Semester

Enter semester end date
2019-12-11 00:00:00 Ending of Semester

Enter institution name
Federal Polytechnic Kaura Namoda

Enter faculty name
School of Science Technology

(c)

Figure 2 Administrator activities interface. (a) Login Admin (b) General Activities (c) Registering Department

ii. Instructor Module

The instructor prepares learning content and uploads same to the enrolled student in his class. He also gives them assignment, test and final examination. Meanwhile, he evaluates all these three and scores the students appropriately and subsequently uploads it. They can send notification to student and views student progress report. See below the activities of instructor and the interface in figure 3

FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC KAURA NAMODA

Tools Reports Dashboard Logout

Index Register Lecturers course setup course Resource CST Preparations Prepare Assignments

Chat Channel Verification Code Department Setup Notification Manage Lecturers My Students

CONTACT US
Federal Polytechnic Kaura Namoda
Zamfara State.
Tel. +2347035463091
Email: contact@fedpolykauranamodaib.com

Figure 3 Lecturer activities interface

iii. Learner Module

This module is the student view where he accesses the learning contents, do assignments and upload it, take test and final examination. On this view, the learner is equipped with the facility to view all his course work and final scores examination scores for the registered courses. This scenario is clearly captured in the diagram in figure 4 below.



(a)

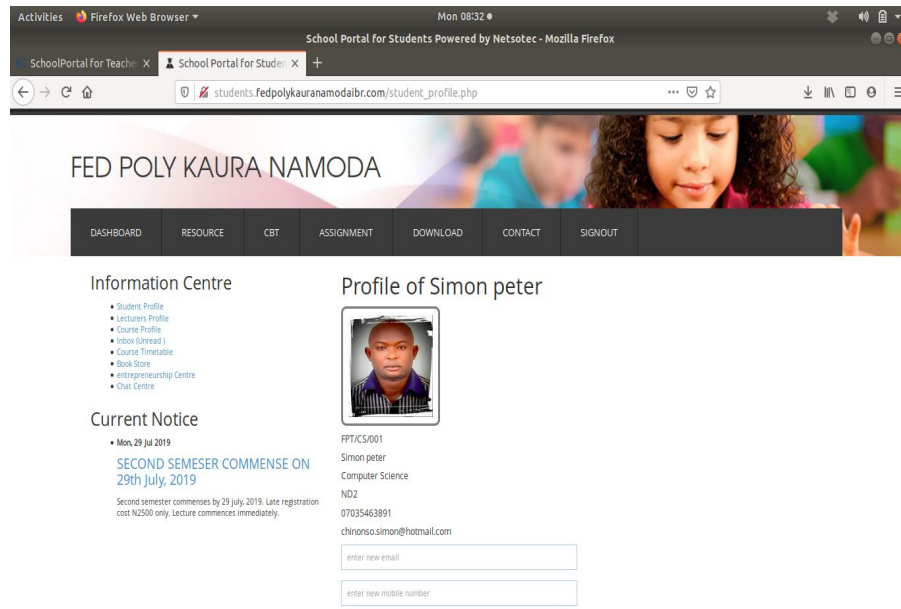


Figure 4

Meanwhile, for an effective learning experience with this proposed system, the three key users work hand-in-hand. We have adopted the flow of traffic by Shrivastava R 2013 et. al as shown in figure 5 below.

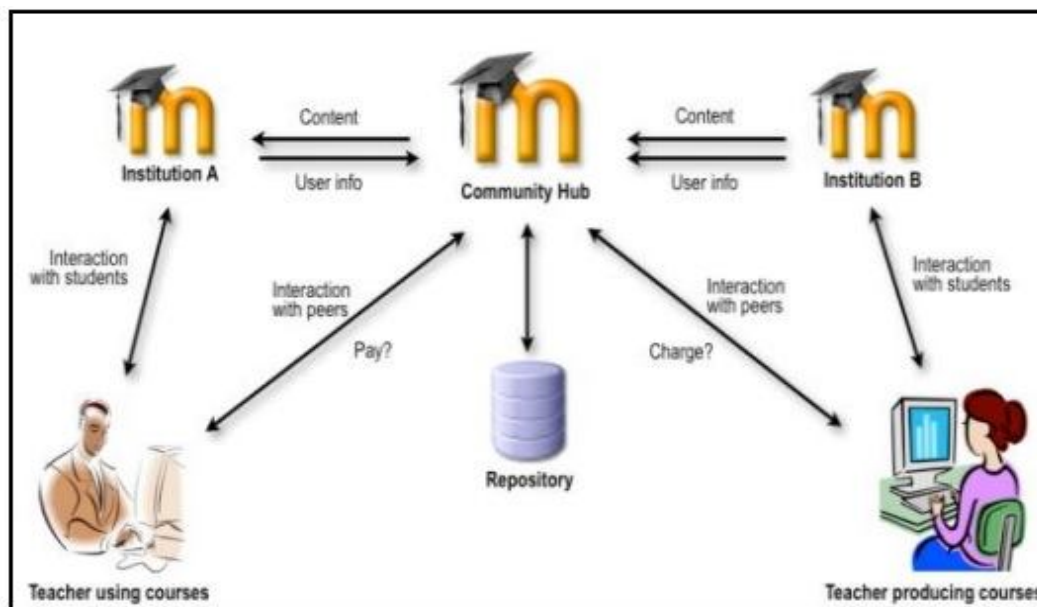


Figure 5 Moodle course management system by Shrivastava R 2013 et. al

This is done by including additional user which is the administrator who oversees the smooth running of this system and updates when need be. Meanwhile, institutions A and B in figure 5 are replaced with various schools in the Federal Polytechnic Kaura Namoda.

2.4 System Requirement

This is the proposed system configuration and it is in two folds, the software and hardware requirement. They ensure the smooth and efficient running of the proposed system. The hardware requirements are those requirements which avails the hardware necessary component for the software to work effectively. Meanwhile, the software requirements are that software that should be resides inside the computer system for efficient functionality of the proposed algorithm.

2.5 Hardware Requirement

The following is the hardware requirements of the proposed new system

- a. Flat screen monitor
- b. Printer
- c. Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS)
- d. 1.5gb RAM or more
- e. 100 Hard Disk Drive (HDD) or more
- f. Basic/ Extended Keyboard

2.6 Software Requirement

They are all the necessary programs required by computer system to effectively execute the proposed system. They are as below:

- a. WINDOWS 2007/2018
- b. Wireless Network Infrastructure
- c. Internet domain server
- d. Internet service provider
- e. Oracle database server
- f. Desktop Server
- g. Computer System
- h. Linux Red Hat Server
- i. Apache web Server
- j. MySql Server

3. Conclusion

The rate at which students and lecturers have embraced ICT has necessitated the conception of this research. Students and lecturers alike are on the internet for an average of ten hours, thus this time can be used on the proposed learning portal for an effective learning experience. Meanwhile, the kind of lecture delivery in Federal Polytechnic Kaura Namoda, Nigeria, as mentioned earlier, can be improved with the new proposed Learning Content Management System (LCMS) which would ensure students studying on their pace and lecturers preparing appropriate learning course materials for effective lecture delivery. We propose that this system should be used by the institution but should be able to provide a strong and reliable Information Communication Technology (ICT) that will drive the portal to different schools and departments.

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