MOBILE LEARNING TECHNOLOGY

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Abstract

The evolutional change in IT field, advanced computers and other electronic items are the necessity of humans. Due to rapid technological advancements, excessive dependence and tremendous use of Mobile learning have become hot issues. Mobile Learning is a field that involves the use of Mobile Computing and wireless technology to enable learning occur anytime, anyplace and anywhere. The implementation strategies of mobile learning are very important for every nation due to the advantages that came with it. Mobile learning provides ease of access to education and enhanced interactions between instructors and learners. However Mobile learning provides a lot of challenges for developing of any nation.

Keyword: Mobile Learning, E-Learning

Introduction

Theterm M-Learning or "Mobile Learning " has different meaning for different communities that refers to a subset of education Technology ,E-learning and distance education that focuses on learning as cross contexts and learning with mobile devices. Mobile learning has many different definitions and is known by many different name like M-Learning, personalized learning,learning while mobile learninganytime, anywhere and handheld learning.

Mobile Learning is "any sort of learning that happens when the learner is not at a fixed /predetermined location , or learningthat happens when the learner take advantages of the learning opportunities offered by mobiles technologies (MOBi Learn 2003). In other word, with the use of mobile devices learners can learn anywhere and at any time .Mobile Learning is considered to be ability to use mobile devices to support teaching and learning.

Most developing nations need to implement Mobile Learning due to quite a number of reasoning. Some of which are listed below.

1. **Provides Easy access:** Mobile learning provides easy access to learning anyplace, anytime, making it more convenient to learners. Learners have the advantage of spending their time spent on traveling, between meetings or during weekends focusing on the subject they want to learn.

2. **Facilitates Collaborative Learning**: mLearning encourages collaborative learning, allowing learners at different locations to get in touch with their peers or others teams to discuss and learn. Social learning is a happening trend which creates a sense of competition and cooperation, which will lock the learners' attention towards the course.

3. **Boosts Learner engagement:** Training at the workplace mostly consists of verbal and desktop communication, but adapting mobile learning can bring several opportunities to engage the learner on a digital and social level outside of the

work. This new dimension will erase the sense of boredom in learners' mind about the course.

4. **Encourages Self-paced Learning:** No two learners are the same. Each one has his or her own way of understanding the content to learn. With mobile learning, learners are now able to learn in their own style, at their own pace. In a classroom scenario, occasionally, there will be a few learners who wouldn't have understood the concepts clearly but hesitate to ask for a re-explanation. In mobile learning, nobody knows or cares how many times you revisit the course, which gives you the freedom to do it until you have understood it all.

5. **Address all learning styles:** Mobile learning can fit different learning styles as it allows learners to do the following:

   o Reading

   o Learning through videos

   o Listening to podcasts (Audio)

   o Research on the Internet

Benefits of Mobile Learning

1. Mobile Learning can occur at anyplace and anytime and learning content can be accessed anywhere.
2. A mobile Learning process is not limited to one place.
3. Mobile Learning enhances interaction between instructors and learns/students.
4. Mobile Learning is a great opportunity for students and instructors to continue to learn.
5. Mobile learning is a great opportunity for Just in time training or review of content.
6. Mobile Learning facilitates collaboration among students and instructors through both asynchronous and synchronous communication techniques.
7. Relatively inexpensive opportunities as the cost of mobile devices are significantly less than PCs and Laptops.
8. Devices used are more lightweight than Books and PCs.

Disadvantages of Mobile Learning

1. Mobile Learning may give opportunities for students to cheat if there is no monitoring System in place of check cheating.
2. Mobile Learning may also require on additional learning curve for non-technical faculty and students which might introduce a burden in adoption.
3. At times the convenient small screen on Mobiles phones can be a big disadvantages as reading documents on a small screen can lead to eye strain.
4. Mobile learning can create an isolation or a feeling of being out of the loop for both instructors and students who may not always have mobile connectivity.
5. The hyper connected smartphone user may receive, SMS, social media or news notifications during a mobile learning session. This reduces the

learner's sense of solitude which could lower the learner's engagement level vs a classroom experience.

6. Device compatibility issues may arise as there is a lack of standardisation in smart phones. Learners may be have different OS,Version of that OS, screen sizes, battery life and so on

Mobile learning standouts as a great resource to facilitate better learning, as long as you pledge to keep its limitations in mind while designing one. Mobile technology helped us by bringing a lot of distant things up-close and has the potential to do the same with our learning programs. With the future of more andmore mobile workforce,M-Learning could be a saviour for many. What do you think? Due to intense competition and insufficient time, today's organizations want to train their employees while they are on the move. This can be done through mobile learning because mobile technologies allow learners to quickly access information or training modules, when they need them the most.

Step 1: Identify the need and analyse your audience

Mobile learning cannot be implemented at a single go. Even though mobile learning offers potential benefits, you should determine whether there is a need for mobile learning in your organization, and this can be done by identifying the gaps in the existing training methods and analysing how mobile learning can fill those gaps.

If there is a need, then start analysing your audience to prepare a list of employees who could benefit from mobile learning. Then, check whether your workforce is ready for mobile learning and has the knowledge needed to use the mobile devices.

Step 2: Determine the costs

The second step is determining the cost; you need to estimate the cost of implementing mobile learning by considering the following.

- Hardware cost

- Development cost

- LMS Integration cost

Hardware cost: Hardware cost includes the cost of mobile devices and related infrastructure.

Development cost: This includes the costs related to the payment of salaries for instructional designer, graphic designers, and other professionals needed to develop the mobile learning course. You also need to factor the expenditure involved in the purchase of authoring tools.

LMS Integration cost: It includes the cost incurred to set up an LMS. You may need a new LMS if you don't have one or your existing system does not support mobile learning.

Step 3: Decide on the devices

Once you estimate the costs, you need to decide on the devices. Here, you have two options – purchase on the mobile devices for the staff or implement the Bring your own device (BYOD) policy. If you wish to implement BYOD, then you should make sure that the courses you develop are compatible with all types of mobile devices.

Step 4: Design courses considering the small screen

Mobile learning is all about Just-in-Time learningso design the course keeping the screen size of the devices in mind. Ensure that the interactivities used in the course are simple, concise and self-contained, so that they can be included in small modules.

Step 5: Choose the right authoring tool

The fifth step is choosing the right authoring tool. The sizes of the screens of various devices are different. So, make sure that the authoring tool can be used to develop a course which runs seamlessly on all mobile devices.

Step 6: Select the right delivery method

The last step is the selection of the right delivery method. If you want to track your mobile learner's activities, then your LMS should be compatible with all devices. If it doesn't support, then you can think of switching to a new LMS.

These are the six crucial steps which help you implement mobile learning successfully. What do you think? We'd love to hear your views.

Conclusion

Mobile learning is a hot new item that will continue to gain popularity based on convenience. The fact is that convenience is everything in today's busy society and will continue to be in generations to come. Mobile learning opens so many doors to new technology and will continue to get more complex as the years go on. So many more opportunities are being giving to get an education and to expand your knowledge. This is a great way to help people learn better.

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