Lotus Notes 4 for Learning: Integrating Knowledge Bases, Workflow, and the Internet for Learning

Bradley Wheeler
Indiana University

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Recommended Citation
http://aisel.aisnet.org/icis1996/81

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LOTUS NOTES 4 FOR LEARNING: INTEGRATING KNOWLEDGE BASES, WORKFLOW, AND THE INTERNET FOR LEARNING

Bradley C. Wheeler
Indiana University

Lotus Notes is the leading and most comprehensive groupware product on the market. Some universities have adopted it as their messaging and collaboration platform while other institutions are using it at a school level. Many other institutions are considering greater investments in a variety of emerging groupware technologies for the purpose of supporting learning.

This Technology in Action briefing will demonstrate how Notes can be effectively used to support continuous learning processes. It will demonstrate how Notes workflow features can be used to facilitate a directed case discussion to promote collaborative learning. The workflow features promote active learning and contribution rather than leaving participation to chance. Six custom Notes application templates will be demonstrated and made available to participants. These include templates for coordinating course content and scheduling among faculty teaching in integrated curricula, classroom templates for directed case discussions, current events templates and others.

The briefing will also demonstrate how Notes can be a low maintenance way to link on-line class activities to the Internet and specifically the World Wide Web (WWW). The relationship between conventional web browsers (e.g., Netscape) and Notes databases will be explained.

Finally, the briefing will address issues of our experiences with start-up efforts, costs, maintenance, and two different remote-access strategies for supporting branch campuses. The briefing is based on two years of teaching experience with Notes and the WWW at two different universities.