

Mi-Learn: An Evaluation of an m-learning management system

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Abstract. The Mi-Learn project has the overall objective of assessing the suitability of m-learning within the context of a university campus. M-learning has the potential of enabling the building of a mobile learning infrastructure for the University of Malta. This would allow students to use their mobile devices (mobile phones, personal digital assistants (PDAs), etc) to follow courses (or part thereof) online. The case for deploying and fully exploiting an M-Learning infrastructure keeps getting stronger due to a number of trends:

- Mobile devices are continually becoming more accessible, cheaper
- Mobile devices are becoming increasingly rich in features and have access to higher bandwidths
- Mobile devices are gaining popularity
- E-Learning is a concept that has caught on around the world and has also been adopted in Malta.
- Students sometimes face hours of idle time between lectures. It would be ideal if such hours could be used productively whereby students can log on to a course server and follow part of their course online.

The Mi-Learn portal (<http://milearn.cs.um.edu.mt>) is the m-learning prototype environment built to enable the evaluation of m-learning as a knowledge transfer medium on campus. Powered by Moodle (www.moodle.org) and Google (www.google.com) technology, Mi-Learn portal presents an implementation of the concept of m-Learning Management Systems.

Keyword: m-learning, e-learning, distance learning, pedagogical evaluation, user interface evaluation.