GenevaLogic Case Study

Innovative ways of learning at the Commercial Vocational
College Solothurn – "Vision" opens horizons

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The Commercial Vocational College Solothurn (CVCS) enrolls 850 students. Commercial professional certification, basic commercial education and training to become a retail clerk or a medical assistant are all taught here. The staff at CVCS is proud of its innovative infrastructure. In addition to Microsoft Office and standard industry solutions, Vision is also available in the up-to-date information technology classrooms.

Technological developments have changed our schools, yet the task remains the same – to prepare our students for the challenges of the working world. The use of new technologies is increasing at most training centers and colleges. While learning new technology and methods can be challenging for instructors, students adapt quickly. Students' natural enthusiasm for new technology gives instructors opportunities to capture student attention by incorporating interesting media into the design of their lessons. Computer integration in the classroom has given teachers the advantage of teaching the whole class at once, work groups of students or individuals.

"Vision is a tool to help me be a more effective mentor in the classroom. I can give support where it is needed, get the undivided attention of all of my students during the lessons and access the individual work of the entire class."

One of the challenges in classes that use computers for instruction is demonstrating the use of new computer applications. Depending on the seating positions and the difficulty of the material being presented, it can be very difficult for an educator to give individual instruction at each computer during class time. Even with a projector, students have difficulty repeating what is being taught on their own computers. Vision, the classroom management software from GenevaLogic, allows the instructor to demonstrate a concept on his screen and project his screen onto each individual computer screen so students can easily see the steps. Vision6 offers instructors new, innovative ways of dealing with the challenge of teaching detailed or new material to a group of students.

Vision offers optimal assistance for the individualization of instruction

Fredy Staub, information technology instructor at the Commercial Vocation College Solothurn, appreciates the diverse possibilities of Vision as the ideal support for his pedagogical efforts. "Learning is something that is individual," Staub said. "Some students require detailed assistance; others just need an example to follow. Some need to be motivated through advanced challenges. Vision supports me in my endeavors to accommodate the individual needs of the students and thereby helps me to provide each one of them with the most they can get out of the course."

With Vision, student activity is easily managed. If steps need to be demonstrated while material is being taught and the group's entire attention is needed, the instructor just locks the student computers with a click of the mouse. If the class is working individually and a student needs an additional explanation of the material, the instructor can access the student's computer directly and demonstrate the necessary steps or send the student the contents of the instructor screen. In the chat mode, the students and instructor can communicate with each other without the conversation disturbing the rest of the class. If the example is relevant for all, the instructor can display the information on every student computer with a click of the mouse.

"A comprehensive introduction to Vision made it easier for us as instructors. Of course we had to adapt, learn more and discover the ideal way for each of us to implement this tool into our lessons. But it was worth it. The lessons are exciting for both students and instructors. No way do I ever want to have to do without Vision again!"

Endless possibilities – freedom and responsibility for the students

The instructor monitors student work with the Vision dashboard. This allows the instructor feedback as to whether his directions were detailed enough for the task and he also has control of student activities.
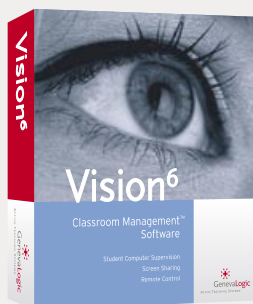
"The information technologies available today open new worlds. The students have a variety of new ways to work. Handling this technology responsibly takes practice. All students face the temptation of games, the web and chat rooms. With Vision, I can highlight the boundaries in a friendly way. I have an overview of the individual computers and can intervene where necessary. If I send a student a screenshot of his web-surfing adventure, where the content has nothing to do with the lesson, I am communicating the limits in a positive way," Staub said.

Surf-Lock2, an additional component for Vision, makes it possible to control web access. Surf-Lock2 allows instructors to block access to the web completely, allow only selected students web access or limit access to only teacher-selected web sites.

Summary of the lesson and distribution of homework

Pointer, another component for Vision, allows the instructor to create a summary of the lesson. The instructor selects the most suitable annotation tool from a palette with a click of the mouse. A spotlight function highlights specific regions of the screen, together with a framing function that lets instructors draw a frame around the most important elements. They can then use a numbering annotation to reconstruct the logical steps in the development of a theme. The magnifying glass enlarges difficult-to-read passages and the screenshot function saves a copy of the screen so important data can be captured. With this type of reference, the student can concentrate on the essentials, namely the content of the lesson. The student is then equipped to successfully solve the worksheets he has received from the instructor over the network.

Advantages of Vision6 for the instructors:

- Undivided attention of the students when presenting learning material
- Exchange of screen contents and learning success
- Targeted intervention and assistance possibilities
- Individual aid for maximum learning success
- Support of the instructor in the role of the learning partner and mentor
- Guidance and control of the individual and class activities
- Innovative repetition and documentation of learning content