Blackboard e-Learning Platform at ACK Cyfronet AGH

Marek Kwaśniewski, Maria Wielgus, ACK Cyfronet AGH

In 2005 ACK CYFRONET AGH decided to provide e-learning services to academic community of Krakow. We chose e-learning platform Blackboard because it was successfully used at many universities in the world. We have installed Blackboard Academic Suite with Learning and Community Systems. We are the first Polish center which provides e-learning platform Blackboard to students and academic teachers. From the very beginning we have had inquires from our users about Polish version of Blackboard Academic Suite.

To facilitate the use of the Blackboard platform by Polish students, we developed the corresponding Polish Language Pack in 2006 year. Every year in September the Blackboard Academic Suite is upgraded to a new release and Polish Language Pack too. In 2008 year we extended our Blackboard installation buying Content System.

Now we have a computer infrastructure and fast academic network to provide access to e-learning platform Blackboard for all universities in Krakow and whole south part of Poland. Nowadays we have users from Jagiellonian University, AGH University of Science and Technology, Technical University of Krakow and Pedagogical University.

We can also cooperate with other institutions to prepare courses for their employees.

For several years ACK CYFRONET AGH has collaborated with Municipality of Krakow. In the last year we prepared e-learning courses for 2400 employees from Municipality of Krakow. The Municipality of Krakow process a great deal of sensitive personal information so local regulations require that all employees maintain the high data security standards. To ensure that, everyone in the municipal office had to undergo a course and prove that he is aware of all of the rules. But the most of the staff didn't have any prior experience with e-learning so we had to make the course so intuitive that each participant could use the course by himself without any additional training.

We modified the Blackboard content to show only the most relevant information and to give more guidance and hints during the whole learning process. The materials were divided into a number of lessons, each followed by a compulsory test which was necessary to pass to go to the next lesson. Up to now nearly all municipality employees have passed the course.

We would like to present how easily and conveniently is to teach and to learn using e-courses on the Blackboard platform.