

Save half a day

IT Training professionals could save up to half a day every week simply by switching to automated course technology, new research reveals. The in-depth survey of 250 training professionals, carried out at the recent Institute of IT Training Annual Conference 2007 by Watsonia Publishing found: that just one fifth of the training professional's time is spent actually delivering training; nearly as much time (16 per cent) needs to be devoted to developing and editing individual course materials and training managers spend almost the same amount of time (15 per cent) managing their own teams as they do liaising with customers.

The benefit to the industry of course customisation is clear says Watsonia. Key staff spending less time on tasks that computer software can easily replicate – and more time on tasks that produce a disproportionately high value for the time invested, such as actual training and liaising with clients.

Colin Steed, CEO of the Institute of IT Training said: "This research is invaluable for training managers everywhere. If they or their bosses needed any convincing about the value of course customisation software, then here it is. It is obvious from this that the job of training should be left to the trainer, while the job of writing courses can be left to specialist companies who can provide the tools for trainers to build all the course materials they need in a matter of seconds."

Councillors have more time

Learning Pool, the e-learning specialist for the public sector, who, in partnership with Epic, has developed a new e-learning service designed specifically for elected Members, allowing councillors more available time.

Called Modern Councillor, this new e-learning service is available online and provides high quality, flexible e-learning that's directly relevant for today's new and existing elected Members. Since its launch in May 2007 over 64 per cent of all local authorities in England have signed up, giving over 12,500 councillors access to bite sized e-learning that's just for them.

Designed to be easy to use, Modern Councillor's courses are short and engaging, typically lasting 30

minutes and consisting of a few modules. The content is structured in this way to allow Councillors to dip in and out of a course as their schedules allow.

As e-learning moves into the mainstream so the age profile of some newly elected Members has lowered. These more technology savvy Councillors bring a readiness and demand for more flexible learning resources with them. Mary McKenna, Learning Pool's MD says: "e-learning is adaptable and affordable which is particularly important, as local authorities have to work to tight budgets. We're delighted that over 12,500 councillors can now use e-learning as result of their local authorities signing up. We're also really pleased to be working again with Epic who have helped us make this service an enormous success."

Go Digital says UK online centres

UK online centres have welcomed the publication of the National Audit Office (NAO) report into Government on the internet, but stressed action on digital inclusion must step up if progress in delivering information and services online is to continue.

UK online centres message is that in rationalising and improving services according to the NAOs recommendations, the government must make sure they target not just existing users or even just the low-hanging fruit those who are relatively easy to convert to online channels. They're calling for renewed efforts to reach the really hard-to-reach.

The fact is that those people without the knowledge, skills or motivation to use the internet are likely to be the very people with most need to use government services. Research shows three quarters of socially excluded people are also digitally excluded those out of work, in poor health, with low qualifications, living alone or living in social housing. It's these people that must be targeted by government so they get the same information and benefits available to online citizens.

Helen Milner, managing director of UK online centres said: "It's great to see this report recommending that government organisations have a clear strategy for providing online services which work for internet novices as well as internet experts. However, more action is needed for the 39 per cent of the population who are still digitally excluded."

PTT wins institute approval

E-learning provider PTT has been named as an Accredited e-Learning Provider by the Institute of IT Training for its "commitment to high quality and process improvement in the provision of IT training".

PTT is a UK-based company which delivers e-learning and learning management solutions, primarily for the telecommunications and ICT sectors,

although it is addressing the requirements of organisations who have a training requirement in other technical subjects.

PTT's managing director, Bob Nott said: "In this fast changing world, technical staff with the full range of knowledge and skills necessary are at a premium. We have built up a worldwide reputation for

producing training solutions that address skills shortages with relevant and engaging e-learning. The accreditation by the Institute of IT Training is very important to the PTT team as it provides independent and respected confirmation of our commitment to high standards in all aspects of e-learning design and delivery."

Copyright of e.learning age is the property of Bizmedia Ltd. and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.