

Computer Engineering Technology Course

Institutes OpenOffice.org

by

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- Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology
- Rational for changing to OpenOffice.org
 - Making the change
 - The surprises
 - How well does OpenOffice.org work?
- Book List and Resources
- How OpenOffice.org is used in the course
- Future Plans
- Final thoughts

Presently

- 4 years as instructor in CET Dept at SIAST

Previously

- 13 Years instructor Northern College
- 5 years continuing ed. instructor Selkirk College
- Many years private consulting to Small Business
 - Involved with entrepreneur project in Moscow

Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology

Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Canada

- 4 Campuses
- Total 201 courses
- Total 13,600 students
 - 51 Certificate and Diploma courses
 - 4850 students
- Articulating agreements
 - University of Regina
 - Athabasca University
- Projects in 10 countries



Computer Engineering Technology

Course:

- 5 Semesters (4months/semester)
- + 3 Semesters Industry work terms.
 - 78 week (2500 hours) instruction
 - Total 28 months (instruction + work terms)
- Microcontroller hardware and software
- Computer networking
- Major independent project in 5th semester.

Nationally accredited by

- Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists

- Staff:
 - 4 Instructors
 - 1 Technician
- Hardware/Software:
 - 3 Computer Labs
 - Total 75 to 100, workstations + servers
- Servers:
 - Linux – Novell – Windows NT

Rational for change to OO.o

- WordPerfect Office
 - License
 - Changes in Licensing agreement
 - Time required to keep up to date
 - Compatability between versions
 - Quattro macro problems
 - WP files would not move up without errors
- MS network cost a lot of manhours
- Students were using bootlegged software



Making the Change to OO.o

- More students enrolled than lab could handle
- 3 working days
- Had experience with Linux and StarOffice
- Used hardware handmedowns from Architectual Dept
- Borrowed Cat5 cable from Electronics
- Moved table and benches
- Had everything we needed, so we did it
- Not to pretty, but working

- New operating system +
 - New office productivity suite +
 - New computer lab +
 - 1st semester students =
-
- Minor password and permission fixes
 - No problems at all

- MicroSoft Free Zone
- Apathy
- Apprehension
 - “You are teaching the wrong software”
 - “Nobody uses Linux”
 - “I only work with MicroSoft”
 - “Windows will do everything I need”
 - “I need an a: drive”

I vote

You loose

Handle it

- Among my peers
 - “You can't do that....can you?”
 - “What is OpenOffice.org?”
 - “Open source?”
 - “Ya but what about Windows?”
 - “I.R. is gonna take your head off!”

YES it does, Thank you very much

- Resume in .doc format
 - Printed, graphics and all
- Power point presentation
 - modified and saved as powerpoint
- Assembler lookup table from Calc
 - Made all calculations and converted to Hex
- Moving files between Linux and Windows
 - Every day

OpenOffice.org text

- StarOffice 5.2 Companion
- Floyd Jones & Solveig Haugland
- 1021 pages
- Sun Microsystems Press.
- ISBN 0-13-030703-3

To install Linux on home computer

- Slackware Linux for Dummies
- Paul Gallegos
- 357 pages
- IDG Books Worldwide
- ISBN 0-7645-0689-7

General Linux reference for students

- Linux for Dummies
- Phil Hughes & Viktorie Navratilova
- 238 pages
- IDG Books Worldwide
- ISBN 0-7645-0760-5

Book List and Resources

- www.openoffice.org



Assumptions 1st semester students

- They have a computer and printer at home.
- They have used word processing and spreadsheets
- They know the basics of an operating system
- They know how to install software in windows
- They have an Internet connection at home.
- They think they are really competent with computers.

How OO.o is used in the course

Writer

- Do not teach wordprocessing
- Given simple assignment, To be handed in at end of first class
- Required for all handins

How OO.o is used in the course

Calc

- Projects;
- Weighted semester average
- Calculation and Graph of parallel resistors
- Calculation and Graph of RC charging/discharging

How OO.o is used in the course

Math

- No specific assignment
- Provide an overview
- Some students use it for handins
- Not required to use, but implied

How OO.o is used in the course

Web

- Project;
- Create web page(s)
 - Subject optional (legal)
 - 3 graphics and 3 links
 - Post to external free hosting site
- All students use OO.o in Lab
- All use ?? at home



How OO.o is used in the course

Draw

- Provide an overview (Autocad in another course)
- Schematic symbols on Dept web site
- Students use for all schematics
- Students use for many things
- Provide an introduction to programming flow charts.



How OO.o is used in the course

Impress

- Provide an overview
- TCom instructor knows that the students know about it
- Not required in my 1st semester courses
- Limited by equipment availability

How Linux is used in the course

Linux

- Basic commands
- copy, move, delete, etc. (files and directories)
- m commands
- Script file to mount and umount
- Student home directories on Novell server
- Introduced to Linux directory structure
 - Directories you can play with
 - Directories you can NOT play with

How KDE is used in the course

KDE

- No instruction required
- Get used to Konqueror very quickly
- GUI generation
- Anything that can be done with a mouse is instinctive

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- MySQL
- PHP
- XML file formats
- Remove mice from lab for Linux

Final thoughts -Education-

- OO.o financial advantage
- OO.o license advantage
- Students are not disadvantaged



Final thoughts – Small Business -

- OO.o and Linux, cost advantage
- Full office productivity + Internet
- Buy new hardware as bare-bones
- Can use hardware hand-me-downs
- “New” to small business
- “Open Source”, how about “Open Use”?
- Market for short, non technical training

Final thoughts – opinion -

- Best choice for production and mission critical apps
- License flexibility
- Will OO.o do everything MSOffice does?
 - Wrong question - Don't limit yourself – ask instead
- Will OO.o do everything “I” want?
- I have found it to be a redundant question.

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- My web page:
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- Siast page: <http://www.siastr.sk.ca>

Questions?