

Project Overview

LLEARN will facilitate the acquisition of new languages (oral and written) through the development of a network delivered, interactive and collaborative advanced learning system for language learning. This application will be an effective language-learning tool teachers can use to develop and deliver content, foster learner collaboration and facilitate peer-to-peer sharing.

LLEARN will incorporate and demonstrate:

- An immersive interactive multimedia learning tool in which learners can listen, speak, and an immersive interactive multimedia learning tool in which elearners can listen, speak, and collaborate with distributed peers.
- Broadband intensive language learning applications where individual learners:
 - can record, playback and share voice recordings, and
 - have direct access to hyperlinked language learning support tools including on-line grammar, personalized dictionary, pronunciation guide, and proficiency evaluation center.
- Broadband intensive language learning collaboration between and among learners and instructors.

LLEARN will test and address challenges of digital-based language learning through the collaborative development of this broadband advanced learning system, both:

- Pedagogic (how to teach and learn language virtually), and
- Technical (voice recording, listening, collaboration and graphical comparison of intonation and pronunciation).

LLEARN provides a national demonstration of collaborative development of broadband learning, with LLEARN partners sharing and integrating resources, content and expertise. Multiple levels of government and private/public associations and workplace organizations with K-12 and post-secondary institutions will provide models for future collaboration nationally. The LLEARN tool itself will be applied in multi-level settings from school age to adult learning, thereby having the broadest learning impact possible.

Using the French language as the first content area, LLEARN will be built to respect provincial and national requirements. Partners include pedagogic experts (Faculté Saint-Jean, University of Alberta), distance education practitioners (BC South Island Distance Education School, Alberta Distance Learning Centre and Newfoundland & Labrador Avalon East School District) and innovative technologists (Etraffic Solutions Inc.). Additional partners serving in an advisory role are the Department of National Defence, the BC Ministry of Competition, Science and Enterprise, and the BC Ministry of Education.

LLEARN will:

- Help position Canada as a world leader in advanced broadband networks for language education and training.
- Address a significant deficit in distance/distributed learning in the area of acquisition of new languages (oral and written).
- Disseminate results of research and development activities.
- Produce a commercially viable product that can be adapted for other languages (assuming that the technical challenges can be addressed).

Technology

The LLEARN project aligns clearly with CANARIE's objectives to bring diverse private and public institutions together to advance the use of broadband networks in Canada.

In the inception stage, the staff at Etraffic Solutions Inc. reviewed the technological issues posed by the creation of a broadband online language-learning laboratory. The project will solve some unique issues and create some new technologies that will benefit both Canada and the world.

LLEARN creates an effective broadband Internet-based language learning tool (oral and written) that provides a means for development and delivery of content, learner collaboration, peer-to-peer sharing and specific language learning applications where elearners can record, playback and share voice recording within a curricular framework in any language.

Standards

LLEARN will be SCORM and CanCore compliant.

SCORM (The Sharable Content Object Reference Model) is a set of interrelated technical specifications built upon the work of the AICC, IMS and IEEE to create one unified "content model". These specifications enable the reuse of Web-based learning content across multiple environments and products.

CanCore (Canadian Core Learning Resource Metadata Protocol) is a Canadian service that interprets and simplifies existing educational standards and protocols, and is aligned with SCORM. CanCore is based on, and fully compatible with, the IMS Learning Resource Meta-data Information Model. CanCore has defined a sub-set of data elements from this IMS model for the purposes of the efficient and uniform description of digital educational resources in Canada and elsewhere. It is intended to facilitate the interchange of records describing educational resources and the discovery of these resources both in Canada and beyond its borders

Evaluation

The LLEARN project will be deemed to be technically successful when it addresses the challenges of broadband intensive language learning, and disseminates the research results of this endeavor.

Evaluation Plans

Both formative and summative activities related to LLEARN will be conducted, assessing:

- Achievement of project goals and objectives.
- Quality and performance as an advanced learning system.
- Performance and satisfaction of beta user groups.

Dissemination Plans

The key learnings of the evaluation work and the LLEARN project in general, will be disseminated to the research and corporate community during development and after beta-delivery via academic publications and the LLEARN website.

The LLEARN website will act as a repository for formative research data and results. As well, for three years following project completion, the LLEARN website will provide the national and global communities with the final research data and results.

Commercialization

LLEARN will have commercial potential for the delivery of language learning in a global world economy. Part of marketing a successful product is ensuring that the product development team is cognizant of the pace of technological change and how that change will impact the success of the final product.

Work to be conducted by the Commercialization Team in the short and long-term includes:

Short-term Activities

- Information gathering
- Developing strategic, business and marketing plans for the dissemination and sustainability of the project.
- Functioning as a focus group for the software and multimedia design team for definition of software requirements.

Long term Activities

- Organizing special demonstration events and conferences, national and international media and marketing initiatives.
- Observing beta test activities and evaluating prototypes developed during field trials.
- Expanding national and international broadband learning partnerships.

Funded by CANARIE Inc.

CANARIE Inc. is Canada's advanced Internet development organization - a not-for-profit corporation supported by its members, project partners and the Federal Government. CANARIE's mission is to accelerate Canada's advanced Internet development and use by facilitating the widespread adoption of faster, more efficient networks and by enabling the next generation of advanced products, applications and services to run on them. LLEARN is one of just 14 projects selected for funding support from over 150 submissions in a two year period.

For more information about LLEARN or to join the project Listserv, please visit the LLEARN website at www.LLEARN.net, or contact:

John Juricic
Business Development
contact@llearn.net
Phone: 250-658-8238
Fax: 250-658-5936
Toll Free: 1-866-479-7627
Suite 2301 - 4464 Markham Street
Victoria, British Columbia, Canada V8Z 7X8