



Centre for Distance Learning and Innovation Adds Live Discussion, Dynamic Interaction to Asynchronous Courses with Elluminate *Live!*

The Centre for Distance Learning and Innovation (CDLI) provides access to educational opportunities to students, teachers, and adult learners throughout the Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador, particularly those in isolated rural areas. A division of Newfoundland and Labrador's Department of Education, the organization works in close partnership with local school districts to develop a culture of eLearning as an integral part of the educational environment.

The Challenge: Add Synchronous Content to Asynchronous Distance Learning

According to CDLI Program Development Specialist Maurice Barry, Newfoundland and Labrador has a relatively small population scattered over an extremely large area. What's more, school enrollment has been declining for the last 30 years, resulting in many school closings and district consolidations. "To say our students are widely dispersed is putting it mildly," he explained. "Our problem is that we must deliver a breadth of K-12 curriculum to many isolated areas where eLearning is the only option."

"We have a long history of using eLearning, starting with audiographic technology in the '80s," Barry continued. "Originally, much of our emphasis was on an asynchronous delivery method, but those guiding the CDLI were in favor of adding a significant synchronous component, with a goal of making courses interesting, enabling quick support, and making sure students had feedback. We identified our requirements, evaluated products, and developed a point scale."

"In the end, no other product even came close to Elluminate *Live!* Academic Edition™," said Barry. "None of the other solutions had properly integrated Voice over IP into every tool. In addition, we had to be very stingy with bandwidth requirements. At the time, our provincial network used direct satellite with modems to output data, which caused a serious bottleneck. With Elluminate *Live!* we got everything we wanted in one product."

The Solution: Phased Implementation of Blended Learning Environment

CDLI's Information and Communications Learning Technology (ICLT) combines the asynchronous technology of WebCT, a learning management system, with the Elluminate *Live!* synchronous environment. CDLI began implementation with a pilot program that offered one section of ten new courses to ten schools. "Our implementation was training-based," explained Barry. "We used teams of mentors to provide technical and peer support as well as coaching and leadership. We built our own content, hired our own instructors, and provided our own technical support."

What CDLI achieved with Elluminate *Live!*

Superior user experience, with no learner left behind

Elluminate *Live!* is an integral part of the CDLI blended learning solution, with crystal-clear VoIP and in-sync communications—even in remote rural areas.

Increased interaction for all courses

Elluminate *Live!* takes eLearning to the next level, so CDLI can add live discussion and information sharing to asynchronous content—at the appropriate level for each course.

Responsive partner with proven, state-of-the-art technology

Elluminate is committed to the concept of distance learning and enhancing the learning experience—providing leading edge technology that works.



What makes Elluminate the clear choice for live eLearning?

- Crystal-clear audio with voice over IP
- User-friendly, intuitive interface that's easy to use and customize
- In-sync communications, regardless of connection speed and quality
- Universal operation in Windows, Mac, and Solaris environments
- ESP Moderator Tool Set ensures best user experience
- Greatly reduced travel budgets
- No more costly, inconvenient conference calls
- Best-in-class return on investment, with no per-minute charges
- Accessible, responsive customer service

"We began the training with site visits to the targeted schools, often combining teachers from several schools in one location," Barry continued. "Then we followed up with more training via Elluminate *Live!*. The first year of initial implementation was trouble-free, and we followed by completely implementing all ten courses at all ten schools during the second year. We've proceeded to add more courses and more schools, with the ten pilot schools mentoring the new schools."

"The bottom line was that we didn't jump right in and convert all our courses at once," said Barry. "We looked at each course and made a pedagogically sound judgment about what percentage should be taught using synchronous versus asynchronous technology. For language courses, it made sense that the majority of the course was taught using Elluminate *Live!* because you need the interaction. For social studies, students and teachers used Elluminate *Live!* about 30% of the time to present information and share thoughts, with the rest of the time spent individually reading and reviewing documents and books via WebCT. For math and science courses, it's probably about 50-50 asynchronous and synchronous content."

The Result: eLearning Students Keep Pace with Those in Traditional Classrooms

Today, CDLI provides 25 courses to 95 schools, with 7 more courses in development and more schools to be added. "While we use a multi-tool approach to engage students as much as possible, it looks like a single learning environment to them," Barry said. "Students simply go to the desired course in our WebCT system, and link to Elluminate *Live!* from there. Everything they need is right there in front of them."

"Traditionally, rural students in Canada are falling way behind urban students. Our provincial exams show our students are doing as well, if not better, than students experiencing face-to-face learning," continued Barry. "While we do use a variety of tools, I can tell you that we would not be doing this successfully without Elluminate *Live!*. The feedback from our students is that they like the product and find it useful."

"In the future, we will be layering on multimedia, such as high-end Web conferencing, for our existing courses," concluded Barry. "We have been a bit of an aggressive customer for Elluminate, relentless in our demands for the development of additional functionality. The company has implemented many of the ideas contributed by CDLI teachers. I find Elluminate quite forward thinking."

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