



FanLive! Launched Organization-Wide in Fall 2009

Bob Beatty, CIO and Linda Young, Manager, Learning System Services, Fanshawe College with Valerie Beyer, Sr. Marketing and Communications Specialist, Desire2Learn

Fanshawe College one of the largest colleges in Ontario, Canada with campuses in London, Simcoe, St. Thomas, Woodstock and a center in Tillsonburg, was seeking an effective and efficient conferencing system that could be rolled out organization-wide. While Fanshawe was conducting an extensive review of options, Desire2Learn announced integration with Elluminate Live!® (See "Elluminate Live!" article for details. As Fanshawe already used the Desire2Learn Learning Management system (LMS), it was logical to consider Elluminate in their review.



"We recognized that there is a direction in educational learning that requires flexibility in meeting schedules, times and needs of our learners," states Bob Beatty, CIO, Fanshawe College. "Our faculty chairs expressed an interest in expanding the delivery methods of their offerings. While the asynchronous method has filled a huge gap in education delivery and has been extremely successful and positive for us, we recognized that it was like water is to soup – necessary but not sufficient. We wanted to go the additional distance to have in place the supports for synchronous learning and for lecture capture and review as the next logical steps in positioning the College to meet the needs of a full range of learning styles. From there it snowballed."

Fanshawe had experienced enormous success with the Desire2Learn LMS implementation. They wanted to build upon that success and continue to develop the investment made in integrating the GradeBook, Active Directory and student registrations with the Learning Management System, which were all very positive.

"Academics were enthused; they liked that Elluminate was well designed for education, rather than just the synchronicity of the product. It was icing on the cake that Elluminate paired with Desire2Learn," says Beatty. "It has enabled us to streamline our administration of students and courses. It is a huge, huge benefit."

Branding the system as FanLive!, Fanshawe became the first institution to implement the Desire2Learn/Elluminate integration piloting it in May and June with 20 faculty and launching fully on August 14 once Fanshawe had completed their upgrade to Desire2Learn 8.4. Linda Young, Manager, Learning System Services, Fanshawe College, and her team had one month to integrate, test and launch before the start of the Fall term.

The implementation team completed the entire process by working in virtual teams with Desire2Learn and Elluminate. Although accustomed to working with Desire2Learn, it was their first experience working with Elluminate. The team was faced not only with learning a new system, but learning to work together with new team members who were spread out around the world – London, England; London Ontario; Calgary; Florida; and Kitchener. Adding to the mix, most of their meetings were conducted using the Elluminate platform they were in the process of implementing.



Spotlight Articles

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Introducing Seamless Integration With Elluminate Live!

If you were an attendee at FUSION 2009 in Minnesota, you already know that Desire2Learn Incorporated (Desire2Learn) and Elluminate have recently launched seamless integration between Desire2Learn® Learning Environment and Elluminate Live!® [\[more\]](#)

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"There were challenges, but the implementation went fairly smoothly all things considered," comments Young. "We have received a lot of positive feedback. A lot of areas are interested in it and using it – from service areas to academics."

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Campus-wide implementation was undertaken simultaneously to all faculty, students and employees across all four campuses. Currently, 583 sessions and 3000 attendees, attending multiple sessions, have successfully operated on the integrated system.

"Business faculty and students are enthusiastically embracing the FanLive! technology. It is widely-used: for synchronous classes, virtual sessions, math tutoring, joint projects between classes linked simultaneously on FanLive!, divisional meetings and faculty training sessions to name a few."

"Faculty are holding bi-weekly sessions to demonstrate teaching techniques and ideas; business students are enjoying the delivery inside and outside of the classes; and, international students are often viewing the sessions multiple times on Fanshawe Online to reinforce second language learning concepts."
Mary Pierce, Chair, Lawrence Kinlin School of Business

While Fanshawe self-hosts their Desire2Learn platform, Elluminate currently hosts FanLive! with the intention to move to a self-hosted format. A multi-year arrangement was negotiated as Fanshawe didn't want licensing to be a barrier to broad-scale implementation.

"We want to be able to concentrate on using the system effectively rather than on licensing issues and details," comments Beatty.

Service areas of the College are also interested in this technology for web-conferencing, training activities as well as remote desktop control. This was not available in the past and has required collaboration between different working groups.

In addition to the implementation of Turnitin.com, the Desire2Learn/Elluminate integration has provided a seamless access system that facilitates both students and faculty.

Having successfully rolled out the implementation, Fanshawe administrators indicate that the key to success for other organizations is to think of how integration into both their Student Information System (SIS) and LMS can be obtained. Because of the Elluminate integration with Desire2Learn there has been no problem ensuring students are in the right session and no manual enrollment of students is required, saving hours of time.

"There is a tendency to pick-up systems on a broken-front basis," says Beatty. "As a result it is not student-centered and doesn't make for a smooth experience for students. The biggest thing we've done in making both our Desire2Learn and Elluminate platforms successful is an enterprise-wide experience. It has not been a department by department or faculty-specific implementation. Faculty and students can move from department-to- department and course-to-course and not have to learn different systems. That is the magic."

Young also indicates that providing at least a couple of months to integrate is crucial. "We had to learn Elluminate as well as undertake the integration. We've been fortunate that it has been straightforward. Always ensure there is a pilot and have faculty on-board; they are the best champions. Interest really spreads with their promotion!"

Fanshawe continues to be at the forefront of eLearning implementation. So what's next? They are planning additional training, continuing demos to get more traction and uptake. They are letting it grow organically, not placing restrictions on how anyone uses it, letting it evolve from the grassroots. This approach worked well for the growth of the Desire2Learn platform and there is an expectation that this new framework will grow very dramatically.

"This may go viral on us," states Beatty. "That's ok! We want to create awareness, understand opportunities and enable users to take full advantage of it. We want to let it sink in throughout the organization. We believe the product will sell itself. We'll be available to demonstrate best practices, ensure awareness and that faculties understand opportunities and take advantage consistent with their interests."

With this perspective, Fanshawe is sure to realize continued success.

For editorial comments and suggestions for future editions of the Horizon, please contact Valerie Beyer, Sr. Marketing Communications Specialist at Valerie.Beyer@Desire2Learn.com