faboodle technology framework for accessing Moodle through facebook

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faboodle Technology Framework for Accessing Moodle through Facebook

Guest Lecture

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Main Reference

Abeywardena, I.S. (2011). **Development of faboodle to Interact on moodle through facebook**. *Proceedings of the 24th International Council for Distance Education World Conference, Indonesia.*

Available at:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/236170465_Development_of_faboodle_to_Interact_on_moodle_through_facebook?ev=prf_pub

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR OPEN AND DISTANCE EDUCATION

Development of faboodle to Interact on moodle through facebook

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ODL in a Changing World

Abstract

With the rise of social networking portals such as facebook, twitter and myspace, the masses congregate and exchange ideas, ideologies and knowledge more liberally and more frequently. As an increasing number of learners as well as educators turn to social networking for education, Open Distance Learning (ODL) also needs to evolve to ride the wave in this fast paced flow of information.

Many ODL as well as conventional institutions rely on Learning Management Systems (LMS) such as moodle to facilitate teaching and learning in cyberspace. The success of these LMS are largely dependent on the learners and educators proactively pulling information from them which requires them to access these systems consistently on a regular basis. This has been found to be challenging as the frequency of the users accessing these systems consistently is not vey high. However the frequency of users accessing social networking portals such as facebook has rapidly increased over past few years.

"faboodle" or facebook for moodle is a facebook application which enables educators and learners to keep track of their courses and interact on moodle forums from within facebook. The application, built using FBML, ASP.NET and VB.NET utilising the moodle architecture, serves as a gateway between moodle based LMS and facebook where users can (i) securely login to their LMS from within facebook, (ii) check for updates in their courses and (iii) participate in the moodle forums.

This paper describes the rationale, development process and the workings of faboodle. It also discusses the implications of implementing the system in a real world environment.

Keywords: *Social Networking, Open Distance Learning, ODL, facebook, moodle, Learning Management Systems, LMS, facebook applications*

Talking Points

- Student interaction on LMS
- Why Facebook?
- *faboodle* Technology and Architecture and Interface
- Key features
- Advantages
- Limitations
- Implementation

Delivery of ODL at Wawasan Open University (WOU)

Self-directed Course Material

Face-to-face Tutorials

LMS: moodle v1.8
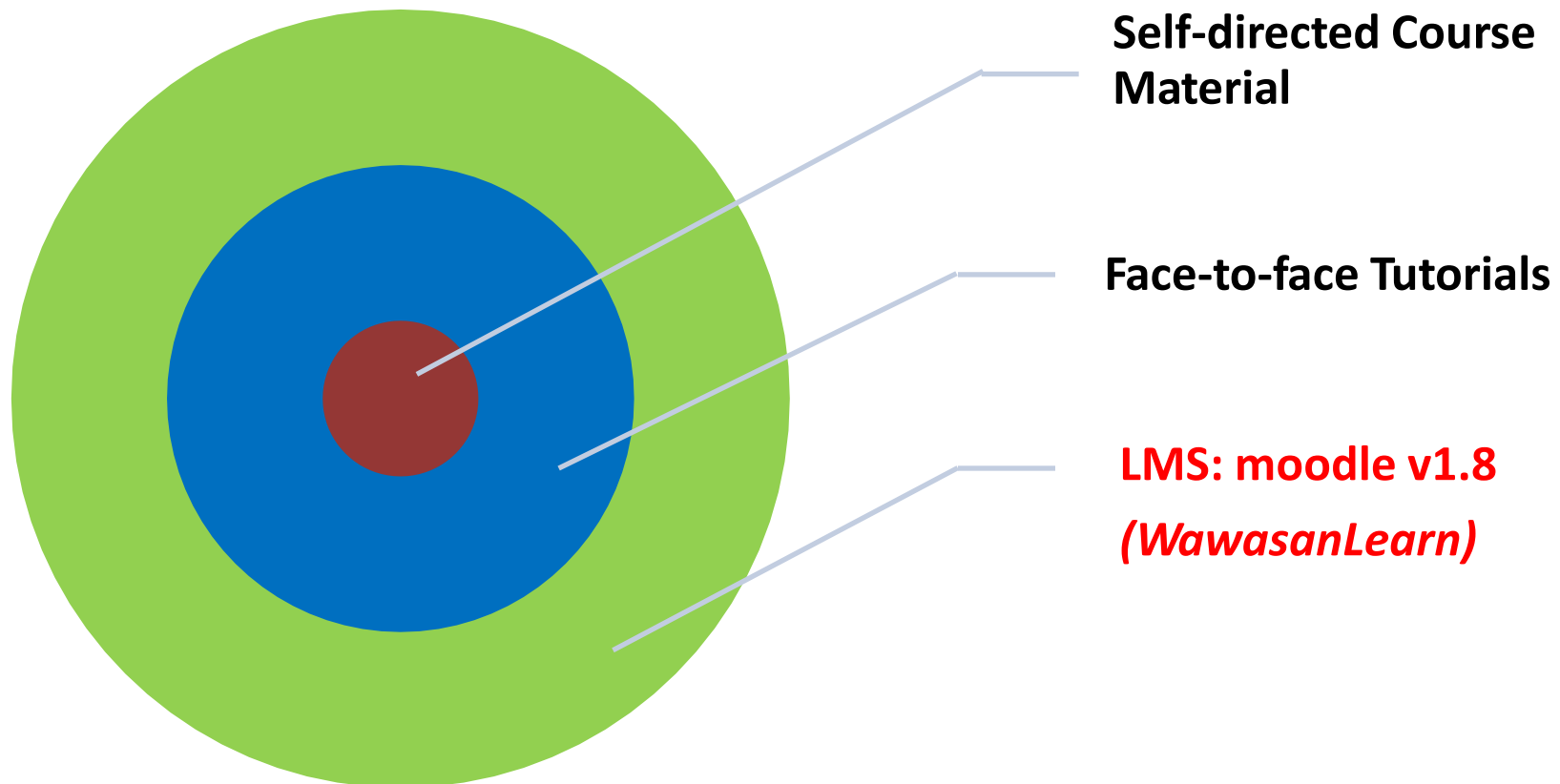
(WawasanLearn)

Student interaction on the LMS

- Student interaction on the **moodle V1.8 based LMS (*WawasanLearn*)** in both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels is low and further reduces as the semester progresses.

- The lack of participation and interaction in online LMS is not a problem faced only by WOU.

- A study was conducted to find out if Facebook improves the interaction on the LMS (Abeywardena & Tham, 2012).

Abeywardena, I.S., & Tham, C.Y. (2012). Implementation of Facebook Study Groups as Supplements for Learning Management Systems (LMS) in Adult ODL Environments. *Asian Association of Open Universities Journal, 7(1),* 1-11.

Is the LMS enough?

- A survey was conducted online as well as offline in all the WOU regional offices*.

- 542 responses were collected from undergraduate students from various disciplines distributed across Malaysia in WOU regional learning centers.
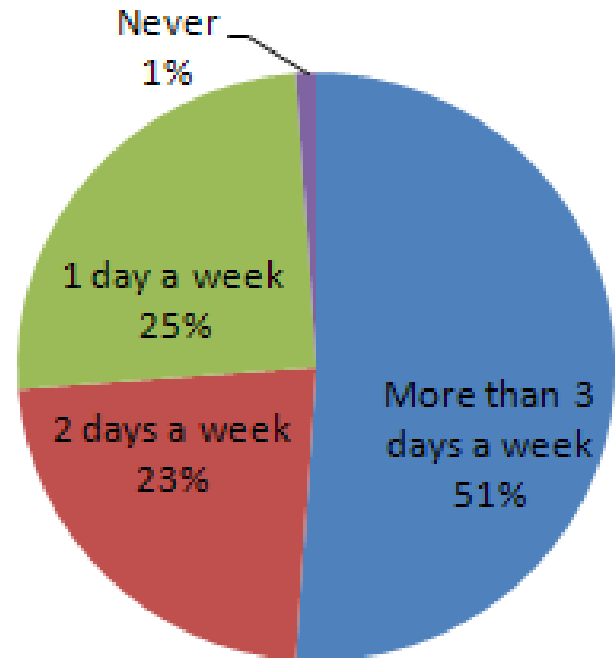
* WOU Regional Offices: Penang, Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh, Johor Bharu

Why Facebook?

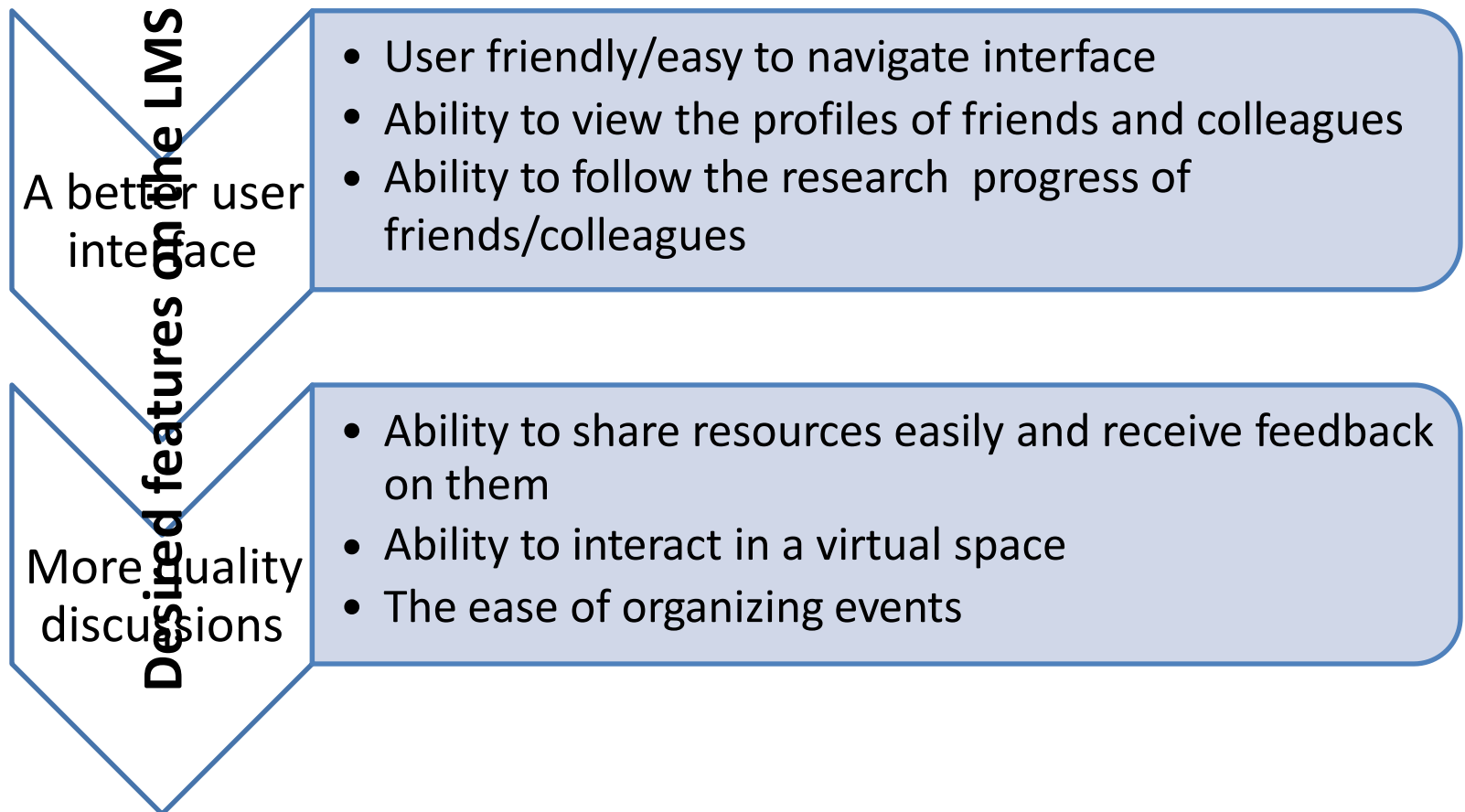**83% of the adult ODL students** who participated in the survey **subscribe to Facebook**
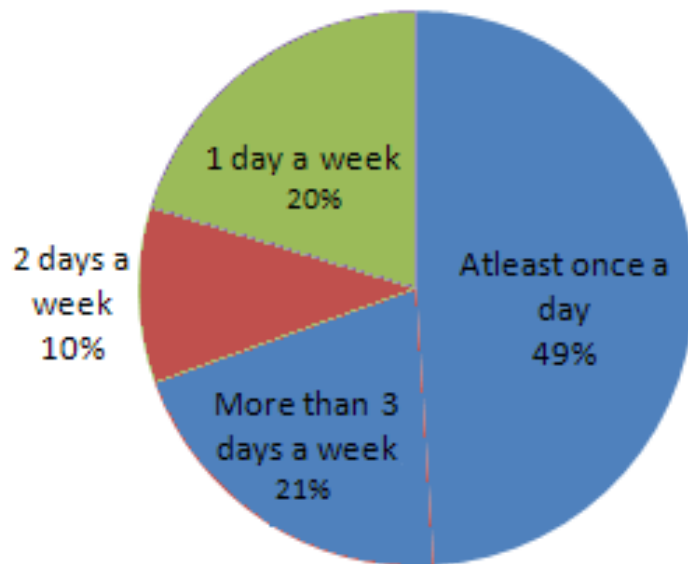
Frequency of logins onto facebook
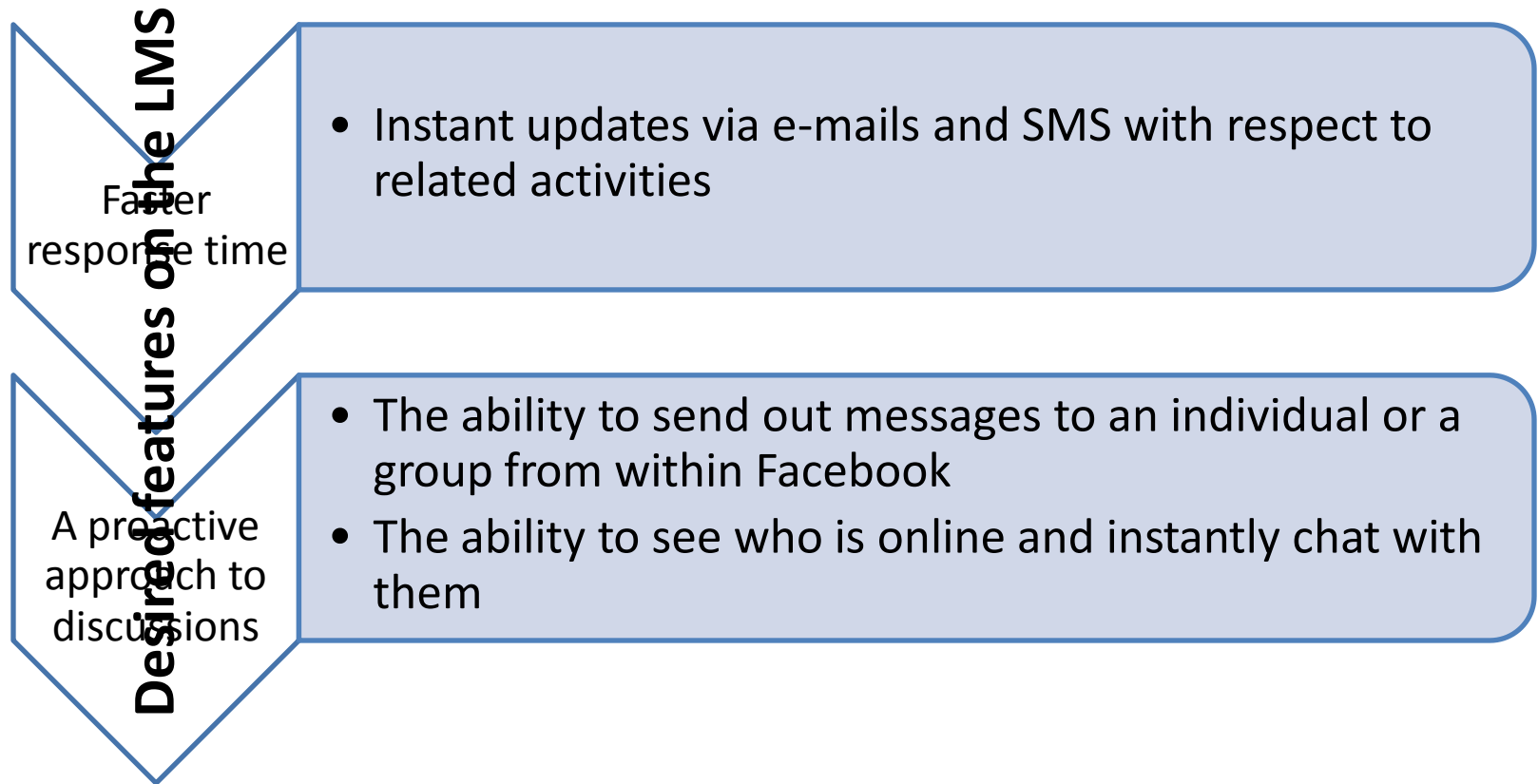

Frequency of logins onto the LMS by facebook subscribers

LMS Vs. Facebook

Key attractions of Facebook

Desired features on the LMS

A better user interface

- User friendly/easy to navigate interface
- Ability to view the profiles of friends and colleagues
- Ability to follow the research progress of friends/colleagues

More quality discussions

- Ability to share resources easily and receive feedback on them
- Ability to interact in a virtual space
- The ease of organizing events

LMS Vs. Facebook

Key attractions of Facebook

Desired features on the LMS

Faster response time

- Instant updates via e-mails and SMS with respect to related activities

A proactive approach to discussions

- The ability to send out messages to an individual or a group from within Facebook
- The ability to see who is online and instantly chat with them

Setup of Facebook study groups: The Pilot Project

- 114 students
- 7 IT related courses
- 2 semesters

facebook
(www.facebook.com)

Personal facebook Profile Pages

Facebook Groups

Course Coordinators

Students

Tutors

Course Study Groups

Direct Students

WawasanLearn (LMS)
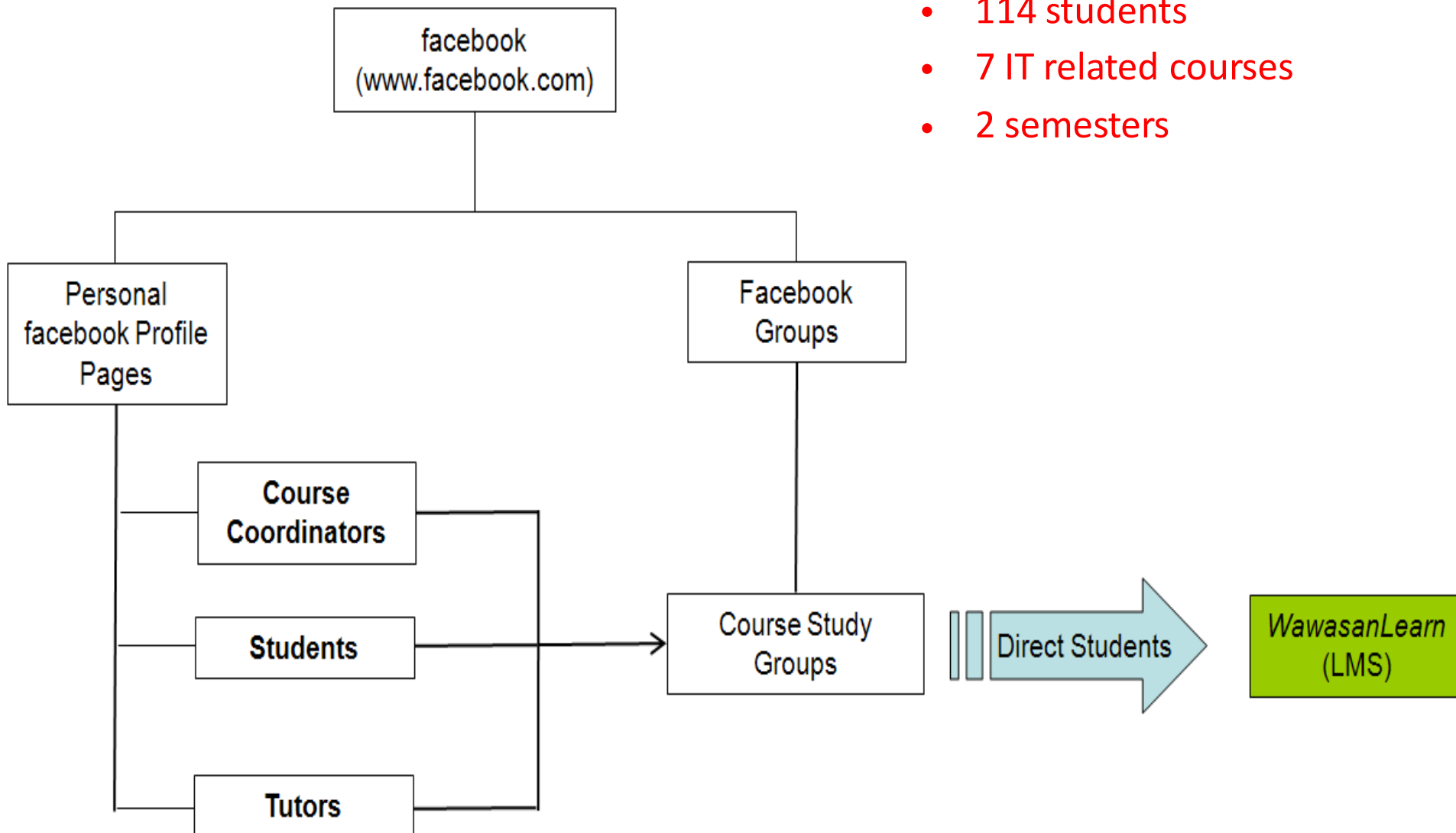
Implementation and Feedback

A follow-up survey was conducted among the pilot project participants to gather their feedback.

- Majority indicated that they would want to join facebook study groups in the future.
- They found it inefficient to switch between the two systems, namely the LMS and Facebook, to keep up-to-date on the latest information regarding their course modules.
- They further indicated that they preferred to use only facebook to extract information directly available on the LMS.

faboodle Technology and Architecture

facebook

✓ No backend integration with moodle
✓ Can be used for any moodle based LMS

User Profiles
Students, Tutors, Academics

Interact on *moodle* LMS

facebook Apps
faboodle

Information Request

Filtered LMS
Information as
Response

Authenticated HTTP Request

HTTP Response as HTML page

moodle

faboodle application server

Key features of *faboodle*

Course list

Provides a dynamic and easily navigable list of course modules the user is enrolled in.

Forum list

Dynamically generates a list of the forums available to a user under a given course.

Discussion threads

A real-time breakdown of the discussions taking place in a particular forum. It also indicates the number of "unread" threads. The user has the ability to view the complete discussion under each discussion thread.

Mark read

The user is able to mark individual threads as "read".

Key features of *faboodle*

Secure access

Provides secure access to moodle based LMS via *facebook*.

moodle authentication

Uses the same authentication process of the moodle based LMS.

moodle session and user privilege management

Harnesses the moodle session management mechanism to protect the integrity of the information.

Information on demand

The user is in charge of what information needs to be requested from the LMS. This reduces the bandwidth required to retrieve the information.

faboodle Interface

faboodle...

TCC123/05 Visual Programming	▼	>>
Public Forum (2 unread posts)	▼	>>
What vb file need to submit? (2 Unread)	▼	>>

Courses, Forums , Threads

What vb file need to submit?
by WONG SOON TAT - - Friday, 23 September 2011, 03:03 PM

Threads

Hi all,

May i know what file need to submit to OAS?

Only the vb file or whole project?

Regards,

ST WONG

Mark read | Edit | Reply

Mark read

moodle login

Load Buttons

Re: What vb file need to submit?
by CHAN KAM CHUEN - - Friday, 23 September 2011, 11:31 PM

Username	user1
Password	●●●●●●●●
	Login

Hi Wong,

You need to submit the whole project. Zip all the TMA folders as one zip file before submit it to OAS.

Hope it help.

Regards,

Chan.

Mark read | Show parent | Edit | Split | Reply

The *faboodle* Advantage

- Easy access to the LMS from within the facebook profile;

- The ability to engage in related academic discussions more often;

- The ability to continue discussions which were initiated on the LMS inside the facebook study groups;

- The flexibility of checking updates on the LMS on the go using mobile devices;

- The convenience of using a single platform for all teaching and learning needs with respect to support.

Limitations

- *faboodle* version 1.1 hasn't progressed beyond the prototype stage.

- It has only been tested on moodle 1.8.

- The current version is its inability to provide users with access to files such as images, documents as presentations which are uploaded onto the moodle forums as part of a discussion

-
  The users are forced to login to the LMS directly to view the attachments. Alternatively, the attachments need to be placed inside the facebook group pages which lead to duplication

Implementation

- Hasn't progressed beyond the prototype stage.

- Students and academics will be introduced to the use of faboodle through the facebook study groups.

- The key stakeholders will also be briefed on the limitations of using the facebook app and will be trained on how to facilitate discussions on the LMS which are faboodle friendly

Conclusion

- Easy access to the LMS facebook profile;

- Academic discussions more often;

- Continue discussions inside the facebook;

- Check updates on the LMS on the go;

- A single platform for all teaching and learning needs with respect to support;

Questions

About…

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