

Questionmark™ Perception™ plays an integral role in the learning process of medical students

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Background

In order to improve the learning process and the learning motivation of the students as well as constantly improve the effectiveness of the learning platform it was decided to integrate an assessment system in the self-developed Learning Management System (LMS).

Software Evaluation Process

In the following software evaluation phase Swiss Virtual Campus decided in favor of Questionmark Perception. *“No other system was able to deliver the functionality and advantages which were important for the project.”*, said Mr. Py.

Reasons for the Decision

The LMS favors the concept of Problem Based Learning (PBL), which means that the learning content was processed to interactive and multimedia-based content wherever it made sense, so that the students can learn and exercise diagnosis and therapy of symptoms of patients on the basis of realistic scenarios.

Therefore the future assessment system needed to fulfill the requirement of mapping different types of questions and especially multimedia types of questions as well as allowing the integration with the LMS on a database level – requirements which were perfectly fulfilled by Questionmark Perception.

The decision was also fixed against the background that eLearning is a long-time investment and therefore the software components must be targeted on that.

Against this background, the openness of Perception was also a decisive factor. If the “parameters” for the eLearning environment were to change after years, the investment in the content has to be protected. Therefore it was of importance that questions, answers and results could be stored in a Microsoft SQL Server™ database and could be reused in other environments on the spot.

The multilingualism of Perception and the ability for different administrators and authors in different locations to work collaboratively within a Perception repository accommodate the special conditions of the Virtual Campus projects.

Rollout

Using the PIP protocol (Perception Integration Protocol) an interface between the Perception, the LMS and the central user database was implemented. Via a single-sign-on procedure and the adaptation of the user interfaces, the LMS and Perception present themselves as Intra-/Internet application as a single integrated system.

The Solution

The medical students may use about 200 available tests voluntarily to check their own knowledge in advance before they enter into the next learning phase. Tests could be performed and repeated to evaluate learning progress during and at the end of each learning session.

The student is automatically authenticated in Perception and the test consisting on average of 10 questions launches automatically. Based on specific criteria, questions are selected on-demand from a pool of about 500 questions, ensuring that the user never gets the same test and cheating is minimised. After answering the last question the participant gets instant results which are automatically retransferred to the learning platform.

The tutors have access to the results as well. For them, the knowledge about the performance and progress of individuals and the whole group (as consolidated results across the time as well as related to single tests) are essential in order to define measures in case they see that the set learning target is at risk.

Further tests have also been developed – independent from specific scientific topics – in order to visualise the possibilities and advantages of the learning platform with the integrated assessment system of Questionmark to other departments and universities.

More information

Questionmark Contact:

Email: info@questionmark.co.uk

Phone: +44 (0)20 7263 7575

Web: <http://www.questionmark.com>

