
New version of learning system announced

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WEEKENDER

Companies that need to train employees have a Perth business to thank for the learning system that makes their lives easier.

DomiKnow Inc. has unveiled the latest version of its learning content management system (LCMS). Chris Van Wingerden, the company's vice-president of learning solutions, announced the 5.2 version in San Antonio, Texas last week, at an annual conference hosted by partners GeoLearning.

"It was a great chance to talk to people who are using the tool every day and to get not only feedback on the new things that we were rolling out, but also feedback on the existing features," Van Wingerden explained.

He said LCMS 5.2 lets organizations create online courses for their learners on whatever topic they want.

"They create that training, and then they can also provide that training to their learners," he said. "In addition to that, the tool then

helps them maintain their courses – keep that content up to date in a lot of different ways."

He said the focus of the latest version was to make that creation as easy as possible for companies.

"We have an authoring tool in the system that lets you make pages to put into your courses, and that authoring tool ... doesn't require you to know any of the programming measures," he pointed out. "(We have made) the use of that tool even easier for people, so one of the things we've done is we've set up a template service, so instead of having to start with a page, you can very easily pick a template that's going to give you the colour and the look and the feel you want."

Van Wingerden said those templates include simple-to-use templates for interactions, such as multiple-choice and true-or-false questions.

"A lot of organizations, in their training departments, have people who are very familiar with Powerpoint, so what we try to do is we try

to break down the barrier, the sense that they're learning new skills," he said. "We take the skills that they've currently got and use them for e-learning."

Van Wingerden pointed out that rather than being a desktop application, it's web-based, making it easier for companies to connect.

"One person could be in Alaska, another could be in New York City, working on a project together to build and create it," he said.

DomiKnow has clients in various areas, from financial to government to health care. The company has worked with one client who created a course for family members and care providers of people with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease).

"So here's an online course that they provide to family members that talks about the progression of the disease, things you need to be thinking about for taking care of your loved ones, and also (for) health-care workers who may not be familiar with it as well."