BRIX: A Community of Courseware Developers and Users

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Arizona State University, Tempe
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## Small Group

| Group Member(s): Gary, 孔德容, 王明轩, 廖成昌, Selena, 蔡晓明 |

### 有效日期

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>廖成昌</th>
<th>2006-02-02 21:05:00.0</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UHM</td>
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<td>我觉得买面包的时候，一定要看有效日期。因为面包不是经常用，所以不要随便买一些临近到期的面包。而且在挑选的时候，必须查看有效日期。我在新闻报看到有2个小孩就是因为吃了超过期的面包而死亡。</td>
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<th>吴明轩</th>
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<td>Philadelphia</td>
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<td>我也同意买面包的时候最重要的就是有效日期。另外，一定要看清牌子的人群消费提示的指示，然后回家后看指示用完，千万不能吃超过期的。</td>
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Session overview

- BRIX: History and background
- Current uses: courses and cafés
- Partner institutions sought for collaboration
  - characteristics of partner institutions
- Collaborative roles at partner institutions
  - educators
  - administrators
  - IT experts
BRIX: History and background

- 1999: CD-ROM conversion
- 2000: Web-based courses – “home-made”
- 2001: FuseBox-based reorganization
- 2003: Birth of BRIX as full-fledged CMS
- 2009: Nearly a decade of team-based building of CMS and course content
BRIX: History and background

- Development funded in part through three cycles of Title VI NFLRC grant

- Trends:
  - advanced $\rightarrow$ intermediate $\rightarrow$ beginning
  - online-only $\rightarrow$ hybrid
  - language courses $\rightarrow$ learning communities
  - basic functions $\rightarrow$ + specialized functions
Current uses: courses and cafés

- Web-based courses
  - CJK, Khmer, SLA / methods, translation
- Learning communities
  - East-West Café, heritage cafés
- Collaborations have resulted in interest in BRIX as a CMS
- Now moving towards community-based open-source development
  - best practices in IT
  - appropriate as Federally-funded project
Partner institutions

We are seeking partner institutions:

1. to use BRIX for courses / online environments
2. to collaborate on developing BRIX as an open-source, community-based CMS
3. with faculty / IT / administration buy-in
4. with collaborative teams including users and developers
Collaborative roles

We welcome users into the new BRIX environment in three roles:

• **educators** interested in using BRIX

• language program and IT system **administrators** interested in costs and benefits

• IT **programmers** interested in participating in development
Collaborative roles – interests

educators

- system features and help

administrators

- requirements – HR, hardware, cost items

programmers

- collaborative software development
- developers’ online community
- directions for development
User role: **educator**

BRIX: a platform for developing and delivering language courses

- course creation
  - instructional units
  - automated exercises / quizzes, forums, uploaded pages
  - menu customization
User role: **educator**

- course management
  - administration: courses and semesters
  - users
  - tracking/reports
  - grading
User role: **educator**

- features of interest
  - Essay tool
  - Language Bank tool
  - embed media for dubbing (“karaoke”)
  - “copy to…” for thread heads
  - “must post first” for thread heads
User role: educator

BRIX help system

• user-sensitive
• searchable
• FAQ’s
User role: administrator

BRIX: a low-cost alternative with opportunities for creative collaboration and customization

Technology Infrastructure:

- medium-range CPU to host Web server, secure location
- access to LAN/Internet network
- ColdFusion server ($1300 - $7500)
- Windows 200x server ($100 - Institutional License)
- MS SQLServer ($200 - Institutional License)
- conaito VoiceMail SDK applet ($400)
User role: administrator

human resources

• IT expertise in server and database management, security

• BRIX administrator

• lower-level tech support for course development: images, Web pages, BRIX tools

• faculty with high interest and motivation, “heavy internet user” level of expertise
User role: programmer

BRIX community: an opportunity for collaborative open-source software development

- concurrent versioning system in place for group software development, HTTPS protocol for repository access, check in/out
- development process: build/deployment system, with ongoing documentation, bug tracking, and communication via content management system
User role: programmer

future directions

• continuing addition of features
• re-factoring
  • ColdFusion → php
  • MSSQLServer → MySQL
• Development of in-house MP3 record/play applet to replace conaito
BRIX

• a platform for developing and delivering language courses

• a low-cost alternative with opportunities for creative collaboration and customization

• an opportunity for open-source software development including collaborative teamwork and versioning

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Mahalo & Aloha

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Our thanks to Richard Medina