

BRIX: A Community of Courseware Developers and Users

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BRIX: a CMS for language learning



CHN332 Chinese Reading and Writing Course Spring-2009
Section: 1

Home	Schedule	Classmates	Teachers	Logout	Help
Course Menu	Small Group				
Cafe	Back To Thread List				
I. Orientation	Group Member(s): Gary 孔德容, 吳明軒, 廖成昌, Selena 蔡曉明,				
II. Cuisine					
III. Medicine	有效日期				
1. Warm-up	廖成昌	2009-02-02 21:05:00.0	EDIT	DELETE	
2. Preparations	UHM				
3. Core Activities Q&A		我覺得買藥品的時候，一定要看有效日期。因為藥品不是經常用，所以不要購買一些將近過期的藥品。而且在找藥品吃的時候，必須查看有效日期。我在新聞裡看到有二個小孩就是因為吃了過期的藥品而死亡。			
» Small Group					
» Grammar Clinic					
4. Post Lesson Activities	吳明軒	2009-02-04 03:25:00.0	EDIT	DELETE	
» Language Works	Philadelphia				
» Essay		我也同意買藥品的時候最重要的就是有效日期。另外，一定也要和買藥的人問清楚服用的指示，然後回家後再遵從指示用藥，千萬不能吃過量的藥。			
5. Quiz					
6. Q&A					
IV. Travel					
V. Hotel					
VI. Crime					
VII. Movies					
VIII. Celebrities					
Tools					
New Postings					
Useful Links					
Language Bank					

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

- 1995-1996: self-study materials – authentic readings and video in Chinese.
ILR – language maintenance
- 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 → intermediate → beginning
 - online-only → hybrid
 - language courses → learning communities
 - basic functions → + 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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A tropical beach scene with palm trees and a cloudy sky. The image is a light blue-tinted photograph of a beach. In the foreground, there is a sandy beach with some dark, low-lying vegetation. The ocean is visible in the middle ground, extending to the horizon. The sky is filled with white, fluffy clouds. Several palm trees are visible, with one particularly tall and slender tree leaning towards the right side of the frame. The overall mood is serene and tropical.

Mahalo & Aloha

<http://lhc.manoa.hawaii.edu/brixdev>