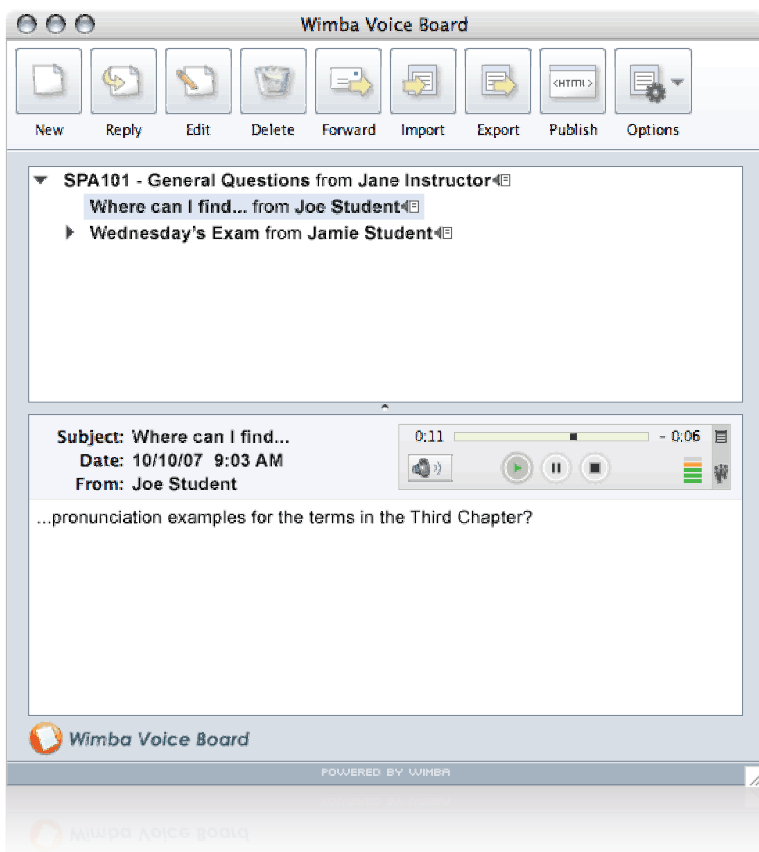


Wimba VOICE

Give Students a Voice

Hearing Shakespeare for the first time. The intonations of a foreign language. When students listen, they learn, that's the power of Wimba Voice. Adding voice to an otherwise text-only course site makes the learning process more interesting and stimulating, thus increasing the rate of learning and knowledge retention.



Student reaction was excellent. Wimba Voice has been extremely valuable for our faculty and students for the simple reason that it enhances teaching and learning.

-Anne Pallant, EAP Lecturer and Course Director
Centre for Applied Language Studies, University of Reading

Appeal to Different Learning Styles

Not every student learns the same way. Not every topic lends itself to a particular teaching method. While standard teaching and learning technologies enable instructors and students to communicate primarily through visual images and text, multimodal learning promotes the use of new media and learning methods to achieve different objectives. Wimba Voice helps instructors speak to students with varied learning styles or visual and print disabilities.

Energize Online Discussions

Retention is highest when students are able to practice new concepts, analyze alternative viewpoints, and explain their own conclusions. Participation in online discussion forums provides opportunities for active learning. By introducing a vocal element to online discussions using Wimba Voice, students are required to become actively engaged with the course content, and through conversation with their peers, negotiate the meanings of the content.

Empower Teachers

Teachers engaged in flexible learning often feel constrained by restrictions imposed on online teaching and learning by the text-based nature of most online communication. Written text, even with visual support, limits the range, type of learning activity and communication that can be delivered online. Wimba Voice offers teachers a broader spectrum of methods for teaching online.

Enable Language Learning

Language instructors have traditionally used audio in the classroom. Audio clips of foreign language speakers provide students with opportunities to learn vocabulary and sharpen their listening and comprehension skills. Wimba Voice enhances language instruction in the online learning environment by allowing instructors to easily post customized audio clips and for students to post practice recordings.

Collaborative Uses

- * Add instructor's voice to enhance presence
- * Build engaging and reusable course content
- * Create and distribute podcasts
- * Explain complex material
- * Author narrated web tours
- * Add spoken announcements to course sites
- * Engage in audio-based threaded discussions
- * Send voice comments on assignments
- * Teach pronunciation, rhythm, stress, and emphasis

Collaborative Features

- * Podcaster
- * Voice Discussion Board
- * Voice Email
- * Voice Presentation
- * Voice Authoring

The screenshot displays the Wimba interface. At the top, there is a toolbar with icons for New, Edit, Delete, Import, Export, and Options. To the right of the toolbar are icons for Subscribe, RSS Feed, and Help. Below the toolbar is a list of lessons:

- Lesson 1 - Week of Sept 3 from Jane Instructor
- Lesson 2 - Week of Sept 10 from Jane Instructor
- Lesson 3 - Week of Sept 17 from Jane Instructor
- Lesson 4 - Week of Sept 24 from Jane Instructor
- Lesson 5 - Week of Oct 1 from Jane Instructor
- Lesson 6 - Week of Oct 8 from Jane Instructor
- Lesson 7 - Week of Oct 15 from Jane Instructor

Below the list is a player for Lesson 7. The player shows the subject, date, and time: Subject: Lesson 7 - Week of Oct 15, Date: 10/15/07 8:01 AM, From: Jane Instructor. The player also has a progress bar showing 9:16 out of 7:41, and buttons for play, pause, and stop.

Below the player is the text: This week: How our foreign dependency on natural resources has affected our agricultural climate.

We expected that our foreign language programs would be the biggest users of Wimba for practice, dictée, pronunciation, etc. Although adopted for this purpose, what we discovered is that both our students and faculty report it heightens socialization and accelerates the establishment of a cohesive community of learners.

- Phil O'Hara, Dalhousie University

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