

Language Learning Center
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POLYGLOT

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News and Information from the Language Learning Center

POLYGLOT

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We at the LLC want to partner with you to develop effective multi-media language learning materials and to ensure the pedagogically sound integration of technology into the language classroom. We welcome your ideas, comments, and inquiries at any time. Contact the LLC or your department's SA.

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Sony 'Virtuoso' Transforms PC Lab into Full Electronic Classroom

Sony has finally announced their first fully Digital Virtual Multimedia Language Lab. This is a technology that the UW LLC has been helping develop and test for a year and a half, but has only been able to make available this quarter. Our digital classrooms, rooms 109 and 122, both feature "Virtuoso," the instructor interface, and all our PC labs feature "Soloist," the student interface.

These applications use Voice over IP (VoIP) to push audio and/or video content to the student workstations anywhere on the network and to collect recordings from students.

The key features of Virtuoso are pairing and grouping students for dialogue practice, monitoring students and broadcasting indi-

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2003-4 Language Courses: Plan for LLC Resources

The LLC has amassed a wealth of technological resources in the last several years, and all are available to help you teach with impact.

We have a video editing workstation using Final Cut Pro. A VCR, a DVD player, and an external Firewire drive are all part of this system. Au-

dio editing (Peak) and compression (Media Cleaner) workstations, a DAT recorder and DVD burner complete our audio/video systems. Beginning this summer, we will be able to make studio recordings directly to a new Mac for faster processing using Peak.

With last summer's installation of a mass CD duplicator, language materials are now duplicated and distributed on audio CD. We are

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Create a Linguistic 'Virtuoso' in our E-Classrooms

New Sony 'Virtuoso' Software Transforms Classroom

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viduals or groups to all workstations for demonstrations. Another fantastic feature is an editor that allows instructors to record audio tests as files that students can open in any of the PC labs, and then record their responses, which are then automatically collected to the instructor's personal folder. Each teacher workstation has a CD-ReWritable burner built in for your convenience. Of course, files can be transferred over the network as well.

Soloist is a digital media player which includes a comparative recorder for checking one's pronunciation against that of the recordings. Another great feature is being able place bookmarks on audio/video files for quick reference and being able to select segments to be repeated.

Together these two tools are a great resource for both learners and teachers.

We encourage faculty to come to our training seminars to learn how they can best incorporate the software in their teaching.

LLC Resources

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planning on having more and more of our language archives put on DVD-ROM, which will help preserve them and make accessing them much more convenient.

The LLC has just been awarded funding for a video conferencing system by the Student Technology Fee. In addition, STF awards enable us to upgrade the Macintosh computers in the CALL lab to OS X for greater Unicode compatibility and greater network control.

Web Design and HTML Seminars at the LLC

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Spanish 110 now offers several sections of a web-based course in which students complete much of their homework over the web. Instructors for the Spanish Web110 must be able to manage those web materials.

The HTML and web design seminar was held in Denny room 109 where Duane was able to take advantage of the Sony 'Virtuoso' system. 'Virtuoso' is most often used by instructors to pair up students in listening and speaking activities. 'Virtuoso' also allows for screen sharing. For the seminar, Duane was able to demonstrate key concepts by placing his very own computer screen on the screen to the right of each participant. For example, in writing a basic HTML page, a participant could follow what Duane was doing on his

computer by looking at a second screen.

Learning about HTML and web design can be a daunting task. Although the LLC does not normally support instructor web pages, its goal is to encourage instructors to use web pages and to familiarize them with web design.

Instructors should also be aware that CATALYST and Computing and Communications also offer year-round instruction and consulting for instructor web-pages; however, unlike CATALYST and C&C which must be focus on a variety of issues relevant to all departments, the Language Learning Center focuses solely on foreign language learning, pedagogy and their technological interface.

Teaming Up with the LLC: Teaching with Technology

Using Online French Video in Film Class

The French department has recently added a new faculty member, Vinay Swamy, who teaches *Filming Identities in Contemporary France*. His classroom instruction is strongly supplemented by his use of streaming Quicktime video on his personal website. The video streams include short segments from various French films with English subtitles. Some of the clips had already been prepared by Vinay prior to his arrival at UW; the rest were created at the LLC using the recently acquired video editing computer and digitizer, and Final Cut Pro software. The digitizer converts an analog input from ei-

ther a DVD player or a VCR into a digital signal, which is then manipulated in Final Cut Pro, a powerful editing tool capable of text overlays, cropping, splicing, special effects, etc. The LLC chooses the Quicktime format because of the protection it provides against illegal downloading of video, extensive online documentation, and local support by Computing & Communications. Edited video can be burned to any format DVD or even Video CD. To view the course website go to: <https://faculty.washington.edu/vswamy/ficf/>. To start a video project, contact your department's staff associate.

Web Design and HTML Seminars at the LLC

During the month of April, several instructors from a variety of language departments participated in an introductory seminar of HTML and web design. The gathering was led by Duane Blanchard with help from Jay Munson, two Staff Associates at the LLC.

Participants were shown how a basic web page is designed and given some instruction on how to design their own page. Duane had created links to a page with descriptions and sample HTML code. Each participant was seated at his/her own computer and able to try HTML hands-on.

Web design and HTML can be important tools for language instructors. The web

offers teachers the ability to place information such as foreign texts or sound files online. One benefit is that students can then access the information from any location with internet access. When updates are needed, instructors only need to generate them once and in one location.

Web pages are becoming more and more common at the University of Washington. Although most departments do not require their instructors to post information online, many instructors do so, and many students expect information such as syllabi and lecture notes to be online. The language departments are beginning to realize the value of providing information online. For example,

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**Have you checked out the LLC's website?
<http://depts.washington.edu/llc>**

**Interested in teaming up with the LLC on a project?
Contact your Staff Associate!**