Creating an International Joint Certificate in IT Administration

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Creating an International Joint Certificate in IT Administration

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27th Annual Conference on Distance Teaching & Learning
August 4, 2011
• Collaboration between
  – University of Nebraska at Omaha (USA)
  – University of Agder (Norway)

• IT Administration Certificate
  – Completely on-line
  – approximately 15 credit hours

• Target population: undergraduate students
• Build on successful existing partnership
• Fill resource gaps via synergy
• Pedagogical and technological innovation
• Provide international experience to students
• Demand for IT Administration certificate
  • Bureau of Labor Statistics: 30% growth 2008-2018
  • Student survey: 80% interested
Planning Process

- The “Gang of Four”
  - Bi-weekly & monthly on-line meetings
  - Skype for audio
  - Google docs for co-editing, document storage
  - Planning & Coordination

- The “Large Group”
  - Monthly meeting
  - Adobe Connect
  - Wikispaces for document storage, etc.
  - Connecting, discussing, coordinating
On-line Virtual Lab - Systems Administration Course

- Multiple virtual machines per student
- Virtual private network for remote access
- TightVNC used for remote control of virtual machines
- Instructor can log in and observe student screens
Amazon Cloud - Distributed Technology Course

• **Purpose**
  - Experience with cloud computing
  - Use of multiple pre-configured machines to experience distributed computing practices

• Amazon Web Services

• Preconfigured LAMP system for each student

• $100 credit per student per semester from Amazon.com

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<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Solution</th>
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| Student Credit Hour (SCH) vs. European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) | 1) Mapping of all courses into SCH/ECTS  
2) Flexible totals (14-16 SCH / 28-32 ECTS) |
| Registration of non-local students                 | 1) Use processes for foreign exchange students  
2) Use local independent study courses              |
| Teacher workloads                                  | 1) Easy for single-instructor courses  
2) Complicated for team – taught                     |
| Different grading practices                        | 1) Grading done according to local practice  
2) Grade conversions according to conventions       |
| Time differences                                   | 1) Only issue with synchronous elements  
2) 9am/4pm  
3) Hand-offs?                                      |
Future Challenges

- Which pedagogical model is most appropriate for each class?
- What forms of collaboration are most effective?
- Creating more of a unified look-and-feel for the certificate
- Creating the official certificates in the institutional catalogs