Faculty Workshop Survey

The CTRE would like to thank all the faculty who have attended one or more Friday Faculty Fest workshops. As our new season of workshops begins on June 6, we would like to reach out and get input from you as we continue to provide programming that is both relevant and engaging to you.

With that in mind, please take a moment to fill out a quick survey and let us know what areas of development you would most like to see offered by the CTRE.

If you have a development area in mind that isn’t listed, please be sure to note it in the box at the bottom of the page.

The survey is completely anonymous, and takes roughly 2-3 minutes to complete. To fill it out, click on the following link: bit.ly/Is3yWX.

Make PowerPoint Sparkle? It’s a Snap.

For many faculty members, simply posting PowerPoint slides online for their students doesn’t seem like enough. And now, thanks to Snap! by Lectora, it doesn’t have to be.

Snap! allows users to record audio and video segments of themselves that play within their PowerPoint slides, providing an experience that is far more engaging.

And while it is true that other programs can perform similar functions, Snap! is extremely easy to use (it “snaps” directly onto PowerPoint’s top ribbon menu), and includes features many of the others do not (it was not for nothing that Snap! garnered an ELearning! Best of 2011 Award for Excellence).

Also available is Snap! Empower, which allows users to create robust Adobe Flash animations quickly and easily, and implement them into various platforms, such as webpages, YouTube, and Twitter.

To learn more about Snap! and Snap! Empower, visit their homepage and watch the introductory video.

Faculty can try Snap! free for 30 days. If you like what you see, then be sure to let the CTRE know.
Looking Forward

Wednesday Workshops

On Wednesday, June 27, Jay Sternickle from Joliet Junior College will be delivering a workshop titled, “Transforming Static 2D Graphics into Dynamic, Interactive Learning Content.”

This workshop will prepare you to use Web 2.0 tools to create engaging content for your students—particularly for online and hybrid classes. Participants will learn about three online tools that allow instructors to transform text and static images into interactive environments and presentations through the use of SpicyNodes (a concept-mapping tool), Animoto (a video slide-show creator), and Photosynth (Microsoft’s, unique panorama tool). This workshop will provide hands-on experience with these tools and practical production advice.

This workshop will take place on Wednesday, June 27 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. in LIB 301. If you are interested in attending, please click on the RSVP link below. Questions can be directed to James Kowalski at ikowalskal@csu.edu or x2498.

Click here to RSVP

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Putting Your Ideas on the Map

When confronted with a daunting task, it’s easy to feel like you’re staring out into the ocean: endless possibilities, but where to begin?

For many, brainstorming, or mind mapping, has proved an invaluable technique. Freely jot all your ideas down, make connections between them, and begin organizing from there.

Of course, this can be done on paper, but there are several advantages to using some of the mind mapping tools that can be found online. Listed here are three suggestions to get you started. Each is unique and offers features the others don’t; hopefully you’ll find one among them that works well for you.

**Mindomo**

Mindomo’s strengths lie in its ability to have people collaborate, organize, and share a mind map together.

**SpicyNodes**

Perhaps the easiest to use, SpicyNodes allows you to organize your mind map with colors, icons, and intuitive navigation.

**bubbl.us**

Also an easy interface, bubbl.us has subtle differences that may make it your mind mapping tool of choice. According to its website, it has “almost no learning curve.”

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Images: SpicyNodes, Animoto, Photosynth, Digital Mind Map