TNP 2 New Learning Environments Workshop

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I4LL: an eLearning Environment for language learning

I4LL (an abbreviation for 'Integrated Internet-based Interactive Independent Language Learning') is the name of the eLearning Environment which is being developed at the Language Centre of the University of Ghent. I4LL aims specifically at language learning. The final version of the learning environment will have the following components:

- The **I4LL Authoring Tool**, a tool for creating interactive learning materials. This also includes a scenario tool.
- The **I4LL Repository Tool**, a tool for storing and managing information about learning materials (metadata). The information is stored in a database using standards which are internationally recognized, among them standards developed by IMS.
- The **I4LL Repository Preparation Tool**, a tool for creating language objectives for complex learning materials (modules, courses), using the metadata which are stored in the database.
- The **I4LL Server Environment**, a web and database server.
- The **I4LL Scoring and Tracking Tool**, a tool for registering learners' activities. The data gathered are stored in a database.
- The **I4LL Communication Platform**, a forum with various spaces, including a personal space for every learner registered for a course.
- The **I4LL Administration Tool**, a tool for organising and managing the data concerning the learners who registered for one of the I4LL courses.

The first and still incomplete version of the I4LL learning environment was released in October 2001. Initially, three courses were offered within this learning environment. The learning materials used in these courses were created with Toolbook Instructor, which turned out to be unsuitable for use in an online environment. The ideas that serve as a starting point for the development of I4LL are nevertheless apparent in these courses.

Since October 2001, much time and effort has been put into the realisation of the various I4LL components. Most attention has been given to the development of the I4LL Authoring Tool, a first version of which is currently being tested at the Language Centre. We also spent a considerable amount of time setting up and fine-tuning a communication platform for the three courses that started in October 2001.

If you would like to get a better idea of the possibilities offered by the I4LL Authoring Tool, please take a look at our demo page at http://i4ll.rug.ac.be/demo/index.html. Please note that you will only be able to view the demos if you have a number of plug-ins installed on your computer. You can download an installer package containing all the necessary plug-ins from the demo page.

This website will keep you informed about the progress we make. It will be updated on a regular basis.