



E-Learning with smartBLU

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Modern society is in permanent change. The amount of information and knowledge is growing rapidly. The acquired knowledge learned at school, university and apprenticeship is not sufficient for a whole working life.

Under these circumstances it is necessary for every person and company to extend knowledge and abilities continuously. This process is known as lifelong learning (LLL). eLearning is an ideal tool for school, university, apprenticeship and training. It is very effective to use eLearning in combination with traditional learning. This combination is called Blended Learning.

The smartBLU learning management system can be used to create and provide eLearning courses. SmartBLU is the result of the eLearning activities of the Fraunhofer Institute for Computer Graphics IGD in Rostock, Germany. Many companies and institutions use the smartBLU learning management system. To improve the service for smartBLU users, the Fraunhofer Institute for Computer Graphics IGD acquired Planet AG as distribution partner for smartBLU.

For many years smartBLU has been used successfully in practice. Latest features and improvements implemented last year include a revised user interface deduced from a usability test, a Russian localization, an offline viewer with a full text search engine and, last but not least, an increase in efficiency on both client and server side. The smartBLU learning management system is continuously being developed with the help of users.

An actual issue is the integration of topic maps as visual metaphors for the structuring of and navigation in eLearning courses. This will support the author in developing new courses, as well the learner in navigating through learning content on diverse learning paths.

For further information see URL: <http://www.smartBLU.com/>

Point of contact

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German Abstract

Die smartBLU Lernumgebung ist ein Ergebnis der E-Learning-Aktivitäten des Fraunhofer IGD Rostock. Die Lernumgebung befindet sich seit Jahren im praktischen Einsatz und wird mit Hilfe der Anwender kontinuierlich weiterentwickelt. Für die smartBLU Lernumgebung wurde die Planet AG als Vertriebspartner gewonnen. Aktuelle Arbeiten fokussieren auf die Bereiche Topic Maps als Navigationswerkzeug und automatische Metadatenextraktion. Weitere Informationen sind unter folgender URL zu finden: <http://www.smartBLU.de/>

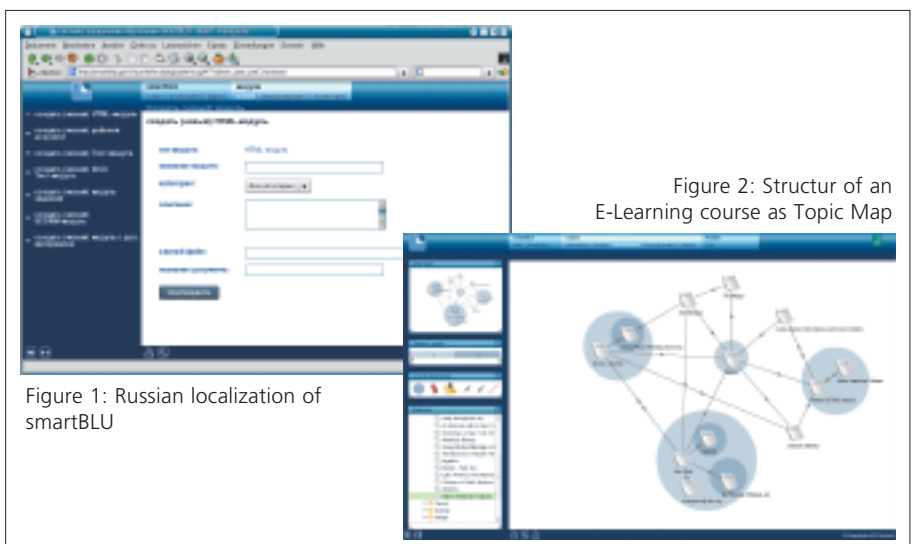


Figure 1: Russian localization of smartBLU

Figure 2: Structure of an E-Learning course as Topic Map