EDC 665 - Curriculum and Technology
Learning Activity Executive Summary
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Summary

Google Wave is an online, personal communication and collaboration tool that was introduced to the public in a limited release in September 2009. Over the last six months, Wave has received a considerable amount of media attention and a wide range of critical reviews. On the positive end, users have found Google Wave's real-time communication platform and embeddability with other applications and networking tools to be an impressive technology. Wave has rolled email, chat, document editing, wikis and widget functionality into one easily accessible application. On the other hand and as is often the case with new software or system releases, learning a new, complex technology can be time-consuming and cumbersome, especially if there are front-end usability issues which Google Wave has experienced.

The purpose of this learning activity is two-fold. First, we will reintroduce Google Wave to our course participants and provide practical knowledge and uses for the tool that can be incorporated into business, educational, and personal communication settings. Second, our tutorials and learning assessment survey will address our participant's present and past knowledge gaps and criticisms of Google Wave and provide a basis for further discussion on improvements and future uses.

Essential Question

Each component of our learning activity will address the essential question, *"How can you collaborate in Google Wave in a personal and professional setting?"* Our coursework is backwards designed to meet the following learning objectives:

- Participants will understand the basic functionality of Google Wave and be able to perform basic navigation such as logging in, creating a new wave, writing a blip, and editing and playback.
- Participants will set up a basic Google Wave brainstorming session.
- Participants will use Google Wave to collect and organize meeting notes.
- Participants will organize an event in Google Wave.

Activity Outline

Activity Pre-work
1- Participants will be required to create a Google Wave login if they do not already have one and create a test wave prior to participating.
2- Participants will complete a pre-activity survey to assess their knowledge and attitudes related to Google Wave. The pre-activity survey can be found at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5Y2H29P.
3- Participants will watch an Introduction to Google Wave video tutorial to instruct or refresh their knowledge on basic navigation and functionality of the platform. This tutorial can be found at http://mykeytg.com/GoogleWave/groups_tutorial.htm.

Learning Activity
4- Participants will select one of three Google Wave activities to participate in based on their preference and personal interests. These activities include: - Brainstorming in Google Wave - Collecting and organizing meeting notes in Google Wave - Organizing an event in Google Wave.
5- Participants will be placed into groups based on their selection and will be required to view a video tutorial on their specific activity asynchronously. The group instruction / signup sheet can be found on Wikispaces at http://mindmaps.wikispaces.com/Team+Awesome+-+Learning+Activity.
6- After viewing their respective tutorial, group members will complete the learning activity listed in the Wikispaces instruction / signup sheet. As a group, they will walk through the steps of their choice Wave activity and successfully set up a brainstorming session, event or organize meeting notes. When complete, A-Team members will review each final project outcome.
Assessment
7- The A-Team will review each activity and post feedback within the group Wave.
8- Participants will be required to complete a post-activity survey and learning assessment. The A-Team will evaluate survey responses to determine changes in knowledge and perceptions of Google Wave. The post-activity survey /assessment can be found at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5Y66HX6.

Required Technologies

Several technologies may be used during the instruction and implementation of our learning activity. However, at a minimum, Google Wave, internet connection, and the ability to view Flash videos through Internet Explorer, Firefox, or Safari is required. All users are required to have a Google Wave account. If needed, a member of the A-Team may assist users in creation of such account.

Other technologies such as Skype or Etherpad may be used for discussions and communication. Because Google Wave is a multi-use platform that includes functionality for all communication and information sharing necessary for this activity, we encourage participants to refrain from using outside technologies and collaborate in Google Wave.

Learning Assessment

An initial learning assessment will be conducted in survey form prior to kicking off the learning activity. In this format, the A-Team will be able to collect quantitive and qualitative data about each participant's perception and general knowledge level of the platform and use this data to further assist during the group learning activity.

Activity Assessment

Upon completion of the group learning activity, the A-Team will review each participant group's Google Wave and provide feedback on the completed task(s). A post-activity survey and assessment will also be distributed to each participant. Data collected from the survey will be evaluated against pre-activity data to determine if knowledge levels and perceptions of Google Wave have changed.