OnBoard : critique and analysis

overview:

Our application offers an integrated education platform for users to start and to join lessons from anywhere around the globe. It is a reason to change from existing methods of real, in-classroom teaching, which may at times be limited due to geographical or time differences, to one based in the online world.

external scan:

Many existing well-known applications in the market such as Edmodo and Blackboard are focused on using the internet as a secondary platform for education that complements classroom education in real life. These applications aid in real life classroom learning by helping teachers track assignments and share study materials. OnBoard differs in that it is meant to replace the real life classroom with a virtual one, having features that would emulate a classroom environment.

features:

* Real-time online whiteboard
* Real-time audio broadcasting
* Live poll system
* Live chat system
* Forum that allows posting and commenting
* File storage system for sharing study resources

Use Cases:

1. TRANSPORT DANGERS & WOES

In certain less-economically countries, transport is rather inadequate and makes it difficult for students to get to school, reducing accessibility of schools to all. Our service would be able to reduce the time taken to get to school as well as the dangers a young child might encounter while utilising the poor transport systems. (In India, 39.2% of accidental deaths were by transport) It also expands the reach of education to people in rural areas of less-economically developed countries by delimiting geographical factors when choosing an education.

1. EFFICIENCY (COST AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT)

Our service also seeks to reduce the cost of acquiring an education for all groups in society. As the cost of personal computers plummets (The XO laptop, one of the cheapest laptops in the world, costs $188) we have taken advantage of this. Our service would relieve the school’s cost of maintaining its campus among other savings. In England, it has been revealed that £2.1 billion is spent per year maintaining school grounds, some of which would certainly be rendered superfluous given our service.

Paper and ink, two items commonly used in educational institutions worldwide, would be reduced in usage if educational institutions utilise our file storage feature. Paper wastage would be reduced down from the 40% of solid waste materials in schools. Pollution from transport to and from schools will also fall accordingly to the level of use, and so does the amount of petrol used.

Limitations:

1. LIMIT ON HOLISTIC EDUCATION

This is a major drawback with our proposed model of education. Modern education focuses greatly on all-roundedness, in terms of values, physical ability and academic strength. Our application is able to fulfill the student’s gain in studies and knowledge, but is unable to supplement students’ moral fiber and physical well-being.

We suggest that schools organize periodic outings to teach students real-life moral applications and to train students physically, in tandem with the online lessons.

1. ACHIEVING WORLDWIDE USAGE

This is especially difficult to achieve, and is honestly quite ambitious. However, we believe that this is the direction in which society and technology is headed, and we hope this will allow us to stay ahead of the curve. Introducing this technology to use will need quite a lot of planning. We could start first on a small scale, in our own school. A day’s worth of classes can be set to be carried out on our service for one class, and we can tweak the service even more from there.

The second step would be making this service available to the whole school, and it would be used in contingency situations such as cases of massive haze, flood etc.

1. LIMITED FEATURES

As this project is still in its infancy, its features, although very relevant to meet the needs of a real life classroom, are not comprehensive enough. For example, the drawing tool have to be further refined in order to be more useful, as there are many paint or drawing applications that allow the drawing of shapes like ellipses and rectangles, our drawing tool only allows the drawing of coloured pencils with different stroke widths.

target groups of people:

* School management
* Students
* Teachers

reach:

* in school (short-term)
* worldwide (long-term)