

A Proposed Structure For A Computer Based Learning Environment - A Pragmatic Approach

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Progress in computer technology and communications has fuelled expectations that computers will help provide useful learning environments. The World Wide Web (WWW) has allowed easy development of courseware, and much courseware has been produced.

Unfortunately, in its normal hypertext version, there are problems with using the WWW as an educational tool. For example, having so many attractive links to choose from makes it easy to choose a path that avoids any conceptually difficult topics.

RoboProf (the project presented here) harnesses the advantages of the WWW and adds direction, indication of progress and a kind of academic dialogue. This dialogue takes the form of analysing a student response and responding appropriately to recognised misunderstandings.

RoboProf is modular and is designed to be scalable. Detailed reporting of student progress aids in administering a course, and is intended to encourage and facilitate course maintenance.