



# WebCT Newsletter

December 2004

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### [WebCT News and Events Update](#)

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#### Events

The early bird deadline is less than a week away for the [4th Annual WebCT European User Conference](#), which will be held at the Fira Palace Hotel in Barcelona, Spain on February 6-9, 2005! You must register by December 13 to [save 75 Euros off the registration fee](#). Also, be sure to sign up for [pre-conference workshops](#) on Monday, February 7 on such topics as Teaching with WebCT Vista 3.0, Upgrading to WebCT Campus Edition 6.0, and Evaluating and Improving your WebCT Course.

The call for participation is now open for [IMPACT 2005, the 7th Annual WebCT User Conference](#)! We invite you to share your knowledge and experience with other WebCT users at the conference, which will take place in San Francisco, California on July 18-22, 2005. Be sure to submit your [proposal for participation](#) by February 11, 2005!

WebCT will participate in several upcoming industry events, including the [5th International](#)

Don't miss out on the early bird discount!

Register today for

4th Annual WebCT European User Conference

WebCT  
2005



Fira Palace Hotel, Barcelona, Spain  
February 6-9, 2005

[Conference on Virtual University](#) in Bratislava, Slovakia on December 16-17, the [EDUCAUSE Mid-Atlantic Regional](#) in Baltimore, Maryland on January 12-14, the [EDUCAUSE Southwest Regional](#) in Austin, Texas on February 16-18, and the [VLOD Vlaamse Onderwijsdagen 2005 Conference](#) (Flemish Education Days) in Gent, Belgium on February 27, 2005.

January is the perfect time to enhance your professional development by taking a WebCT Online Workshop! View our [complete workshop schedule](#), which includes a WebCT Vista 3.0 Institution Administrator Certification Program, Quizzes and Surveys: Creating Questions & Building Assessments in WebCT Campus Edition 4, Mastering WebCT's Gradebook, and much more!

Are you an experienced WebCT user looking to branch out and assist others in their professional development? Then you should apply for the [WebCT Certified Trainer program](#)! We will offer [WebCT Certified Trainer Workshops](#) in Las Vegas, Nevada on February 2-4, in Barcelona, Spain on February 6-7, and in Lynnfield, Massachusetts on March 2-4.

## News

[Gardner-Webb University](#) recently switched to WebCT Campus Edition to support the growth of its e-learning program. "With the sustained expansion of our online learning activities, we need alternative solutions for our current and anticipated level of usage," said Didi C. Ledbetter, director of academic technology for Gardner-Webb University.

Spain's oldest and largest university, [The University of Madrid Complutense, has standardized on WebCT Campus Edition](#) to expand its online facilities. This choice was made after a year-long pilot of the WebCT solution, selected because of its reputation as the most reliable and flexible system available in the European market.

David Stephenson, WebCT sales director for UK and Ireland, provides fresh perspective on how technology is changing the shape of education in "[Blended Learning -- Steering The Middle Course For E-Learning Success](#)", published in the *Training Zone* (UK).

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## Effective Support for E-Learning: a Necessary Ingredient for Success

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Are you prepared to support the continued growth of e-learning on your campus? Do you have the necessary infrastructure in place? At the University of Pretoria in South Africa, where technology bandwidth can be quite limited, staff recognized early-on the need for a central department to provide e-learning support. With 9 faculties of 140 academic departments, it was critical to provide a flexible e-learning system that would support diverse needs. In response to student demands for e-learning, the University established a central academic support department for its e-learning environment, where today 40% of on-campus courses have an e-learning component. To learn how your institution can effectively support students, faculty, and staff as you expand your e-learning program, view the archived online seminar [Expanding E-Learning with WebCT Campus Edition: The University of Pretoria's Experience](#), presented on November 17 by Dolf Jordaan and Irene Le Roux.

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## Spotlight on the University of Western Sydney

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Online learning has traditionally been part of a blended educational approach at the University of Western Sydney (UWS). United as a single university in 2001, UWS has six large, physical campuses

spanning the Greater Western Sydney region that serve more than 35,000 Australian and international students and almost 2,500 staff members. In 2002, UWS standardized on WebCT Campus Edition and transitioned its disparate e-learning systems to a single e-learning platform - across all six campuses. Today, there are over 30,000 UWS graduate and undergraduate students using WebCT Campus Edition in more than 1,550 e-learning sites, and nearly 50% of all academic staff are teaching a component of their curriculum online. To learn more, [download "A Unified Approach to e-Learning at the University of Western Sydney" \(PDF document\)](#).

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### [Direct from Ask Dr. C: Questions and Answers about Course Design in WebCT Vista](#)

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From the [Ask Dr. C](#) service on the WebCT site, here are select questions and answers about [designing courses in WebCT Vista](#):

- Linking the calendar or gradebook on a content page
- Linking to a quiz from a presentation
- Importing content
- Forbidden characters in filenames

Visit [Ask Dr. C](#) today to ask your own questions about WebCT Campus Edition or WebCT Vista! Ask Dr. C is staffed by a dedicated, international community of experienced WebCT users.

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Since this newsletter is for you, we welcome and encourage your feedback as this publication evolves. Please send any suggestions or comments to [webct\\_request@webct.com](mailto:webct_request@webct.com).

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