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Workshop: Using Adobe Connect in the Virtual Classroom

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INTRODUCTION

During fall 2006, the Information Systems/Quantitative Analysis (ISQA) department began its efforts to develop courses for online learning. In the last three years, several of the required courses have been converted to distance education offerings. There was much skepticism regarding the development of the two capstone courses – ISQA 4110 – Information Systems Analysis (fall and summer semester delivery) and ISQA 4120– Systems Design and Implementation (spring and summer semester delivery). These courses are project-based and utilize significant time devoted to instructor/group walkthroughs and communication. These courses could not be placed in an online delivery mode until a means of virtual communication environment was found.

During the summer 2008, both of us volunteered to become members of an Adobe Connect Pilot Study on the UNO campus. Paul was able to utilize Adobe Connect during second day session. Leah's use of Adobe Connect began fall semester 2008. We used Adobe Connect for conducting online walkthroughs of the various milestones for our classes. This practice was carried over into the fall 2008 and spring 2009 semesters, and will be used during first and second day sessions of summer 2009.

WORKSHOP DETAILS

The workshop consisted of introducing Adobe Connect and its capabilities. One presenter was located in Omaha, NE and the other presenter was attending the conference. The presenters used a high-speed data line to link up the Adobe Connect server.

The presenters talked about the process of selecting Adobe Connect along with its advantages and disadvantages for the students and faculty. Actual demonstrations of online walkthroughs and editing of documents were presented to the audience. The workshop materials consisted of PowerPoint presentations and an Adobe Connect handout.