THE DOC.COM LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM:
A NOVEL SELF-ORGANISING APPROACH TO ACCOMMODATE VIRTUAL LEARNING TEAMS

Christof Daetwyler MD (LMS concept and design)
Matthew Snyder (Student of Computer Science, programmer of the LMS)

Summary and Focus:
Learning is a process in which the students process information into knowledge and skills. Teaching faculty are responsible for this process happening in the best possible way. To do this, they need to assign tasks to their students and assess their knowledge. The doc.com learning management system allows faculty and students to form virtual learning teams. The creation of groups is not done by an administrator, but by the learners and faculty themselves.

Background:
"doc.com" is a set of 40 media-rich on-line modules for teaching and learning medical communication skills. See http://webcampus.drexelmed.edu/doccom/   "doc.com" was developed in close collaboration between the American Academy on Healthcare Communication AACH (content) and Drexel University College of Medicine (development of the technology, hosting). An initial set of 19 modules was released using "WebCT" as the learning management system.

AACH was the leading force in the education and training of those in charge of teaching medical communication skills at most American universities.   The assessment of these skills became mandatory for passing the board exams in the U.S. We expect more than 10,000 subscribers to doc.com within the next 2 to 5 years. However, the AACH is not a rich academy, and the administration of 10,000 subscribers could easily require resources that the AACH does not have. We decided to set up a learning management system that would be self-organized by it's users and would not require more than minimal top-down administration.

We were lucky to find a very gifted Drexel COOP student (Matthew Snyder) to create such a system. Our Learning Management System does not require an administrator to set up an individual account. Anyone can set up a free 15-day trial access to our "doc.com" system . This has proven to be extremely valuable in getting more students to use our system. Come by the demo and set up an account and try it out!

Contact information:

Christof Daetwyler MD
Drexel University College of Medicine, 2900 Queen Lane, Room 221B
Philadelphia, PA 19129-1096
Christof.Daetwyler@Drexelmed.edu
http://webcampus.drexelmed.edu/interactive/cda/