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Vienna University Computer Center | Center for Teaching & Learning



# The Flying Auditorium

Elearning at the University of Vienna

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*Flying Auditorium:* The vision of students attending courses in their pyjamas is not still up in the air any more?





## Vienna University Computer Center

### 3 Departments:

NETWORK & INFRASTRUCTURE (telephony, networking etc.)

UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION (e.g. remotely administered PCs)

SOFTWARE & CENTRALIZED SYSTEMS & USER SUPPORT

- \* software development & software management, databases, etc.
- \* helpdesk
- \* eLearning support



## eLearning Platform | Characteristics

- CREATION
  - \* content, documents
- COMMUNICATION
  - \* platform-internal mailing system,
  - \* discussion forums,
  - \* chat
- ORGANIZATION
  - \* calendar (course-specific and global)
- EVALUATION
  - \* learning-groups and assignment/assessment management, tests

In WebCT Vista, the process of building content is separated from the process of managing it. Every teacher has two tabs in his radius of operation.













## Technical Background | Hardware

- Cluster in 2005
- 1 database
- 2 application nodes
- 1 admin server
- Loadbalancer/Content Switch
- ~ 350-400 courses/semester ( $\approx$  term)



## University of Vienna | Specific Requirements

- large-scale university: 65.000 users, 7000 staff
- heterogeneous curriculums (traditional and Bologna)
- heterogeneous courses (scalability!)



## Differences | standard installation

- anglo-american learning-style
- number of courses
- WebCT-internal interfaces not sufficient
- development of own interfaces as points of intersection to own databases (customization)
- high programming effort (+ resources!)
- Vista views (designer/instructor)



## eLearning | Specific Requirements

- one institution (mapped in Vista)
- 35 „faculties“
- course level: title (e.g. Cultural Studies)
- sections (e.g.: WS2006\_VLZ.Nr.123456)



The screenshot shows the WebCT interface for the University of Vienna. The left sidebar displays a tree view of courses, with 'Anglistik' expanded to show various sub-courses. The main content area shows the 'Advanced Cultural...' course page, which includes a table of sections. The table has columns for 'Name' and 'Aktionen'. One section is selected, showing its ID 'SS2005\_VLZ.Nr.713250' and action buttons like 'Löschen', 'Sicherung', and 'Bekanntmachung senden'. Below the table are buttons for 'Abschnitt erstellen' and 'Wiederherstellung von Abschnitten'.

**Courses for „Anglistik“**

**Section ID**

**35 study programmes (~faculties)**

WebCT hierarchies: „institution, course, group, section“ do not fully correspond to our requirements (anglo-american learning system)



## Support | Impact on Users

policy| approach    **voluntariness** | no strict prescriptions  
**BLENDED LEARNING**

effects

- heterogeneous structures  
    → courses and curriculums (scalability!)
- widespread use of WebCT !
- multipliers (hierarchies) in faculty staff!

purpose

- harmonious integration in existing infrastructures
- high approval of WebCT



## Vista Cluster | Points of Intersection

- comprehensive (!) **software for university administration** (teachers, students, courses, grades)
- **Online Course Directory (university-wide)**
- **student enrolment: triple structure**  
**linked to external interfaces**



# enrolment of students | teachers | courses

110075 UE **Spanisch 3**  
 Studienprogrammleitung [Romanistik](#)  
 4 Std.  
 Unterrichtssprache: spanisch  
[eLearning](#)  
[Ruth Pappenheim](#)

← Online Course Directory

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## WebCT - Alle Lehrveranstaltungen

No.:	LvNr.	Sem.	Lehrveranstaltung	
1.	000013 (1)	S2006	TEST-Lehrveranstaltung	[ <a href="#">verwalten</a> ]
2.	(1)	W2004	Forschungsmethoden und Evaluation I - alter Standardkurs	[ <a href="#">verwalten</a> ]
3.	000014 (1)	S2006	TEST-Lehrveranstaltung_2	[ <a href="#">verwalten</a> ]

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[Liste der Lehrveranstaltungen](#) | [Elearning Homepage](#) | [Logout](#) | [Dokumentation](#)

← external  
admin interface  
for teachers





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### LV-Verwaltung

**000013: TEST-Lehrveranstaltung**


[Direkte Einzelanmeldung](#)


[Massenanmeldung](#)


[Angemeldete Studenten](#)


[<< zurück zur Lehrveranstaltungsliste](#)

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[Liste der Lehrveranstaltungen](#) | [Elearning Homepage](#) | [Logout](#) | [Dokumentation](#)

← admin interface for teachers  
bulk or single enrollment of students

list of enrolled students

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### Angemeldete Studenten

**000013: TEST-Lehrveranstaltung**

**Angemeldete Studenten:**

No.:	Matrikeln.	Zuname	Vorname	Studienkennzahlen	Abmelden <sup>1</sup>
1.	9905949	Lorenz	Annabell	092, 346   352, 296	✘
2.	8406463	Rode	Richard		✘
3.	9703092	Waldner	Kyra	092, 236, 352	✘
4.	9406669	Zens	Birgit		✘

<sup>1</sup> Der Studierende wird aus der Lehrveranstaltung abgemeldet und bekommt ein Bestätigungsmail.

**Abgemeldete Studenten:**

No.:	Matrikeln.	Zuname	Vorname	Studienkennzahlen
5.	8400484	Giefing-Meisinger	Eva	298
6.	9950564	Pinter	Donis Theresia	033, 641   033, 535   066, 926   066, 922
7.	8712095	Platzer-Stessl	Eveline Maria	312, 295
8.	9825227	Walzer	Wolfgang	033, 641   243, 375   033, 535   033, 526

[< zurück zur Verwaltung](#)

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[Liste der Lehrveranstaltungen](#) | [Elearning Homepage](#) | [Logout](#) | [Dokumentation](#)



## Support | Steering Activities

- multipliers in faculty staff
- didactical and technical support offices with helpdesk function
- training concept



## Support | Course Concept

eLearning Introductory Course

(all-day event – technical and didactical part)

Advanced Training Courses (technical)

- Content Building (half-day events)
- Communication Tools
- Learning Groups and Assignments
- Assessments

Didactical & Technical Workshops

Didactical Advanced Courses („Blended Learning“)

Training Course „e-competence“



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III. support | resonance



Center for  
Teaching and Learning  
University of Vienna  
<http://www.univie.ac.at/lehrentwicklung/>

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III. support | resonance



New Media Support  
Vienna University Computer Center  
<http://www.univie.ac.at/ZID/elearning/>

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## Support | Surroundings

- FAQ database
- test projects (final exams, study entrance)
- streaming project (life-streaming and storage of attendance courses)
- scanner project
- e-tutors



## Evaluation | Critique – general problems

- anglo-american learning style
- usability, lacking intuitiveness (teachers)
- language pack
- user tracking
- chat
- JAVA tools in general



## Evaluation | Critique – specific problems

- JAVA & SSL (features, upload, download)
- different operating systems (Macintosh!)
- browser settings
- COURSE LIST !





# course list – lack of tool to structure

Kursliste	
CHATS - SS2005 Chat 1 Abschnittsdozent: Alma Mater Rudolphina, Inst. Admin Lorenz	European Legal Thinking _The Spirit of European Integration (Dipl. Diss.Sem) - WS2005 VLZ.Nr.030515 Abschnittsdozent: Christian Stadler
DEMOKURS - Willkommen in der Demolehrveranstaltung Abschnittsdozent: Alma Mater Rudolphina	European Legal Thinking MONTESQUIEU The Spirit of Laws (Dipl. Diss.Sem) - WS2005 VLZ.Nr.030427 Abschnittsdozent: Christian Stadler
AG Dissertation für DissertantInnen - RPH - Stadler - RW_AG Diss Abschnittsdozent: Christian Stadler	Intensiv-Übung zur Einführung in die Rechtswissenschaften Rechtsphilosophie - Teil 3 - WS2005 VLZ.Nr.030158 Abschnittsdozent: Christian Stadler
AG HISPANIDAD - ANDRES BELLO Y LA FILOSOFIA DE LA INTEGRACION - WS2005 VLZ.Nr.030257 Abschnittsdozent: Christian Stadler	Intercultural HISPANIDAD - LEOPOLDO ZEA y la 'Identidad Latinoamericana' - SS2006 VLZ.Nr.030114 Abschnittsdozent: Christian Stadler
AG Identité Européenne - francophone Lehrveranstaltung - 2005 SS2005 VLZ.Nr.300518 Abschnittsdozent: Christian Stadler	Introduction of the Philosophical Basis of European Legal Thinking I The Notions Rousseau and Kant - 2005 SS2005 VLZ.Nr.902073 Abschnittsdozent: Christian Stadler
AG PANNONIA - Interkulturelle Kommunikation - WS2005 VLZ.Nr.030556 Abschnittsdozent: Christian Stadler	Introduction to the Philosophical Basis of European Legal Thinking II The System Hegel - 2005 SS2005 VLZ.Nr.327054 Abschnittsdozent: Christian Stadler
Dipl.-Diss.-Seminar aus Rechtsphilosophie Der Ausnahmezustand - von Carl Schmitt bis Guantanamo - WS2005 VLZ.Nr.030257 Abschnittsdozent: Christian Stadler	Kernmodul Rechtsphilosophie - Einführung in Hegels Philosophie des Rechts - SS2006 VLZ.Nr.030427 Abschnittsdozent: Christian Stadler
eLaw-Übung zur Einführung in die Rechtswissenschaften und ihre Methoden (WebCT-Vista) - SS2006 VLZ.Nr.030036 Abschnittsdozent: Christian Stadler	Klassiker der Rechtsphilosophie Der Begriff der Demokratie in der politischen Philosophie Platons - 2004 WS2004 VLZ.Nr.327054 Abschnittsdozent: Christian Stadler
ERASMUS CENTRAL - Mitteleuropäische Rechtskulturen im Dialog - SS2006 VLZ.Nr.030579 Abschnittsdozent: Christian Stadler	Political Philosophy of International Relations Edward GIBBON (...) - WS2005 VLZ.Nr.030424 Abschnittsdozent: Christian Stadler
Erasmus Plus Europäische Rechtskulturen im Vergleich (...) - SS2006 VLZ.Nr.030424 Abschnittsdozent: Christian Stadler	Political Philosophy of International Relations Human Rights and Culture - tension or condition - 2004 WS2004 VLZ.Nr.327044 Abschnittsdozent: Christian Stadler
Erasmus Plus Europäische Rechtskulturen im Vergleich (...) - WS2005 VLZ.Nr.030093 Abschnittsdozent: Christian Stadler	Political Philosophy of International Relations POLEMOLGY (...) - 2005 SS2005 VLZ.Nr.327044 Abschnittsdozent: Christian Stadler
Erasmus Primus Einführung in die Österreichische Rechtskultur (für Erasmus-Studierende) - WS2005 VLZ.Nr.030110 Abschnittsdozent: Christian Stadler	Politische Philosophie der Internationalen Beziehungen Los 'Principios de Derecho Internacional' - SS2006 VLZ.Nr.030290 Abschnittsdozent: Christian Stadler
ERASMUS-PRIMUS Österreichische Rechtskultur für ERASMUS-Studierende - SS2006 VLZ.Nr.030110 Abschnittsdozent: Christian Stadler	Übung zur Einführung in die Rechtswissenschaften und ihre Methoden - 2005 SS2005 VLZ.Nr.301077 Abschnittsdozent: Christian Stadler
European Legal Thinking Constitutionalism and European Integration (Dipl. Diss.Sem) - WS2005 VLZ.Nr.030516 Abschnittsdozent: Christian Stadler	
European Legal Thinking The Spirit of European Integration (Dipl. Diss.Sem) - WS2005 LVZ.Nr.030515 Abschnittsdozent: Christian Stadler	



## Critical Outlook

- merger of WebCT Vista and Blackboard
- software not reliable
- call for proposals in 2007
- requirements: implementation, points of intersection, databases etc.

