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For Immediate Release



Symposium Digital Language Lab System Raises the Bar for Teacher-Friendliness

Montréal, Canada; March 10, 2006 – Robotel’s new Symposium digital language lab system not only makes learning more exciting for students, but also makes teaching in a language lab much easier and more rewarding for instructors.

What is Symposium?

Symposium is a digital language lab system. In a computer-equipped lab, Symposium links all computers and provides teachers with a simple touch screen-based desktop control panel, from which they are able to:

- Present new concepts using the Internet, computer programs, documents, multimedia materials (tapes & CDs), or live presentations
- Employ authentic multimedia materials in the target language
- Assign students to pairs or conferences to practice speaking and listening skills
- Assign, and remotely launch on student computers, media activities requiring students to record written and/or spoken recorded responses

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- Monitor student work inconspicuously and respond to student “electronic raised hand” questions
- Run testing exercises (such as Advance Placement testing)

Symposium’s computer-based interactive multimedia capabilities captivate today’s language students, who are growing up in a world where the Internet, video games, instant messaging and e-mail are all part of their daily lives.

The Problem with Other Language Lab Systems

A Robotel survey that sampled US teachers at the high school, community college, and university levels, surprisingly found that in several schools equipped with language lab systems, many language teachers did not use those systems.

One of the main reasons cited for not using the system is the lack of time available to already-busy teachers for preparing lessons in the lab environment.

The Symposium Solution

The feedback that teachers provided served as the basis for the Symposium design. Care was taken, not only to make Symposium’s teacher interface easy to use, but also to structure learning activities so that all existing lesson materials, (papers, transparencies, audiocassette tapes, VHS tapes, DVDs, etc.), are able to be immediately employed without modification. Furthermore, Symposium’s unique teaching model is fashioned to minimize up-front lesson preparation time for teachers.

The Symposium teaching model is simply called *Walk-In & Teach*.

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Walk-In & Teach

To understand how Walk-In & Teach really works, it is best to consider one concrete example; a commonly used exercise that employs a proven language teaching method called Audio Active Comparative, (AAC). In an AAC exercise, students first listen to a fluent target language speaker, and then record themselves speaking the same or similar material.

With most other systems, when preparing an AAC lesson, teachers have had to consider how much material a student could absorb before having an opportunity to speak. The teacher would then set “break-points” in the lesson material, so that students could listen to an entire 15-minute tape divided into manageable segments. In fact, with today’s emphasis on tailoring materials for individual student needs, teachers often had to create at least three different versions of the same lesson having differently spaced break-points for beginners, average, and advanced students. And, each version of each lesson involved advanced and meticulous preparation. This methodology was very time consuming for teachers.

With Symposium’s Walk-In & Teach approach, teachers are not required to set break-points. Instead students set their own breakpoints as they advance through the lesson. Clearly, this makes using Symposium a much simpler and more attractive prospect for teachers.

What makes Symposium’s Walk-In & Teach approach even more compelling in this example lesson, is that by having students set their own personalized break-points, each student is able to precisely tailor the lesson to match his or her own capabilities, thereby making the activity more personally challenging and more educationally beneficial.

Walk-In & Teach greatly simplifies language teaching – and concurrently make language learning more interesting and more beneficial for students.

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The Symposium Product Family

The Symposium product line includes two different models;

- Symposium LL (LL for Language Lab) is used in language labs
- Symposium MM (MM for Multimedia) is used in multimedia classrooms

The MM product is identical to the LL product, except for the exclusion of the virtual recorder module that captures student oral and written responses.

Robotel is concurrently introducing an additional language learning solution called LogoLAB. The LogoLAB system is targeted at higher education applications requiring a virtual language lab solution, permitting students to tackle media activities (like Audio Active Comparative recording) at their own time and pace from any computer on campus.

Robotel

Robotel is a global supplier of interactive, multimedia control systems and language learning solutions for educational, corporate and government clients. Robotel is a leader in the educational and training systems market, having more than 20 years of experience as a manufacturer of computer-based teaching systems. The firm has a top-rated customer service group and a large installed base of active customers. The company is based in Montréal, Canada and has a strong presence in US, European, Asian and Canadian markets.

More Symposium Information

For more information on the Symposium and LogoLAB solutions, visit the company web site www.robotel.com, or contact Robotel at (450) 680-1448 or (800) 480-1448.




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