Wimba Announces Wimba Collaboration Suite™ 6.0

MP4, Whiteboard, and Assessment Innovation Extends Learning Beyond Physical Classroom


The Wimba Collaboration Suite 6.0 features advanced MP4, whiteboarding and assessment functionality that will enable the hundreds of higher education institutions and K-12 districts around the world that rely on the Wimba Collaboration Suite to further enhance learning, improve outcomes and increase student retention. Wimba's technology replicates and enriches the highly personal and dynamic elements of traditional classroom instruction in the online learning environment.

"As a member of Wimba's advisory council, I feel like I've had a hand in the development of these new features and am really excited about how they broaden the teaching and learning experience beyond even the 'walls' of a virtual classroom," said Amy Thornton, Instructional Technologist at The University of Southern Mississippi. "By offering instructors even more flexibility in how, where, and when they deliver content to students, we improve engagement and deliver on their expectations for a 21st century education. Both instructors and students benefit from this innovation."

Wimba Classroom 6.0 - Do more with your MP4

The new MP4 functionality of Wimba Classroom 6.0 gives instructors the power to distribute MP4 files, featuring digital audio and digital video streams of lectures and discussions, to course management systems (CMS), YouTube, iTunes University, Facebook, or other content management systems. Students gain tremendous flexibility in accessing content online or offline, from not only their computers but from their iPod, iPhone, or other MP4 players. Providing content for review anytime, anyplace, irrespective of a student's location, is no longer an option but required to effectively engage and retain 21st century learners.

The ubiquitous use of computers and mobile devices on campuses all over the world and the increasing range of students who now fit the profile of a 21st century learner make this enhanced functionality especially significant in engaging students. These students have expectations of accessing classroom or lecture content with the same immediacy and flexibility with which they listen to music and obtain information from the Internet.

Wimba Pronto 3.0 - Let the Whiteboard out of the Classroom

Wimba Pronto 3.0 enriches teaching and learning by making the whiteboard accessible outside of the physical classroom and allowing students and professors to illustrate learning concepts during impromptu group study sessions and informal conversations. The Pronto whiteboard now includes the Wimba Instructional Gallery (WIG), a collection of learning objects and background templates such as the periodic table, calendars, maps, and graph paper, improving the traditional whiteboard and taking collaborative learning to a new level.
Wimba Pronto is the only instant messaging platform designed for education with features that foster rich collaboration such as application sharing, blended audio and video conferencing, queued chat, and now, a state-of-the-art whiteboard.

Wimba Voice 6.0 - Keep the Discussion Going…and Graded

By using Wimba Voice to add comments to a discussion board, students can continue their discussions even after class has "officially" ended. The new 6.0 release of Wimba Voice allows instructors to not only grade a voice discussion board from within Wimba Voice but to automatically add these evaluations to the CMS gradebook. Assessment and timely feedback enrich the learning process and the efficiency of this workflow means instructors can focus on teaching rather than cumbersome administration.

"With Wimba Collaboration Suite 6.0 we continue to extend the reach of teaching and learning, eliminating constraints of the physical classroom," said Steve Kann, Co-Founder and Senior Vice President of Engineering at Wimba. "Our new MP4, whiteboard, and assessment technologies equip educators and empower 21st-century learners by delivering content in formats they can use and review anytime, anywhere."

For more information on how the Wimba Collaboration Suite 6.0 can impact teaching and learning at your school or campus please visit:

Solutions for K-12: www.wimba.com/solutions/k-12/
Solutions for Higher Education: www.wimba.com/solutions/higher-education/

About Wimba:
Wimba®, Inc. is a leading provider of collaborative learning software applications and services to the education industry. Our collaborative software applications for the online and blended education market enable institutions to bridge technology and pedagogy by supplementing learning management systems with many of the proven disciplines of in-person learning environments. Wimba's intuitive solutions enable teachers and students to quickly and easily teach and learn live online, engage in live chat and instant message exchanges, benefit from oral content being added to text-based content, and more. Teachers can also use Wimba solutions to easily convert Microsoft Word documents into online content and to create and administer tests, quizzes, and exams. Our focus on education and collaboration with educators fuels our product development. For more information, please visit www.wimba.com or send an email to info @ wimba.com.

Wimba. People Teach People. www.wimba.com

###
Contact Information
Kathleen Matthews
Wimba, Inc.
http://www.wimba.com
+1.646.861.5193

Melissa Chotiner
DBC PR+New Media
+1.202.292.4572

Online Web 2.0 Version
You can read the online version of this press release here.