

Designing an eLearning System for Vocational, Technical, and Engineering Training

6 questions to Mind-Sight's Development Team



The application of eLearning in education has many benefits. First and foremost, electronically delivered content allows a student to learn at his or her own pace, until they have a complete understanding of the content. Electronic curriculum can extend the classroom beyond the school boundaries and the limited time constraints of the classroom schedule.

eLearning can also play an important role in vocational, technical and engineering studies. To find out more, we interviewed Jim Ringo, Product Development Manager at Lab-Volt, about the Learning Content Management System (LCMS) – Mind-Sight.

1. What's the importance of eLearning in vocational, technical or engineering studies?

“Difficult subjects can be completely demonstrated in 2D or 3D graphics, in simulation, animation, or in film clips adding to a student's comprehension. eLearning can provide content **coverage that may extend beyond an instructors range of expertise**. Electronic content can complement hands-on training by providing review and assessment of the concepts learned in the lab. It can also **show how the newly learned skills can be applied in the field on equipment far too large or costly** to bring into a classroom setting.”

2. What should be teachers' first concern when choosing a LMS/LCMS?

“Teachers should look for a system that will allow **ease of setup and configuration, reliable operation** and content delivery. It should **accept multiple content-types** including instructor generated content with flexibility in content modification, **assessment, reporting**, and grade export that complements other required reporting systems.”

3. When was Mind-Sight launched?

“Mind-Sight was **officially launched on January 5, 2010**. The initial development of Mind-Sight was twofold, made up of the content delivery system plus the content itself. Both projects are considered **continuing development** as we continue to add and improve features and content while adapting to an ever-changing market. Its development involved **roughly 20 staff members** including programmers and system designers, writers, graphic artists, multimedia specialists, with IT and support staff for setup and testing.”

(Continued)

4. What makes you proud of this project?

“Besides its **low cost** and **reliability**, Mind-Sight has **features I have not seen on other LMS systems**. Besides **running on a client or web browser**, only Mind-Sight **can communicate directly with our Electronics flagship product**, the FACET base station. A unique **multi-user login** feature allows several users to view a course simultaneously and track their progress for project partnering or reducing the number of computers required in a classroom. An annotation feature lets the **teachers make content adjustments** to suit their needs. And finally, we’ve prepared **content which is both beautiful and informative**, developed around the latest theories of instructional design which makes our product one of the finest available.”

5. What are the key challenges Mind-Sight is solving (from the student and the instructor perspective)?

“As schools attempt to cut costs, we often find that instructors are being asked to teach topics outside of their core expertise, and that former experienced lab instructors are being replaced with what we term ‘lab facilitators’, who keep the lab running but may or may not have the level of experience required to cover the vast array of hardware topics in the school’s curriculum. Lab-Volt’s eLearning products help to **fill that expertise gap by allowing the student to learn difficult topics using the lab facilities provided, without too large of a burden on today’s instructors**. Mind-Sight content covers difficult topics in detail, providing the basic information required in a timely way, before the student performs any experiments.

Also, by providing self-assessments in the form of review questions and a pre- and post-test evaluation, both **students and instructors can quickly gauge the students’ capabilities** to determine if he or she is ready to move on, or requires some additional help to master the select topic.”

6. Anything else to add that could be of interest for the readers?

“In my many years of experience, I have never worked with a **team so devoted to creating a unique, effective, and enjoyable product**. That same team continues to work closely with customers to be sure they are satisfied with the products and understand each level of functionality Mind-Sight provides. I’m sure I speak for the team when I say **we’re proud to be involved in education so we can inspire and empower** all who are given the opportunity to learn the important fundamental concepts of today’s advancing technologies.”

To go further:

- [See the top 10 must-have features a LCMS should possess.](#)
- [Watch an overview of Mind-Sight.](#)
- [Get all the details about Mind-Sight.](#)