STEP INTO A NEW TRAINING EXPERIENCE

The SCTE has improved its broadband training pedigree with the launch of its new Learning Management System, accessible 'on the go' for engineers and technicians. And now IBC2019 attendees can test their knowledge on the LMS at the SCTE stand, writes **Anthony Basham**

The SCTE has been training engineers, technicians, installers and those involved in the cable, fibre and broadband industry for the past two decades.

Its mission is to raise the standard of broadband telecommunication engineering to the highest technical level, elevate and improve the status and efficiency of those engaged in broadband telecommunication engineering, and provide and accredit training courses for the advancement of technical skills and knowledge within the broadband industry. This has been done through tutor-led courses, self-learning courses and training courses developed by the Society.

However, the education process and learning in general have gradually changed and given rise to a new thought process for learning to be effective. Learning is the transfer of knowledge; it requires different approaches and can be a difficult and time-consuming task.

How do we learn? It is necessary to take several steps before knowledge can be effectively transferred. The first phase of knowledge transfer is remembering; this involves recognising and recalling the learning. It is an area where learning has always provided knowledge and then tested this by examination of the student.
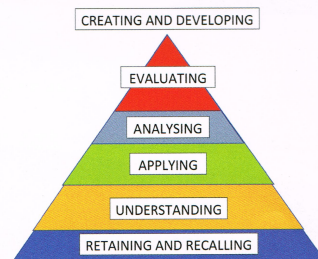
Everybody learns differently, through visual, auditory or kinesthetic approaches. All of these must be available to enable the widest possible knowledge transfer options. The SCTE has, through the years, relied upon the visual and auditory approach to enable knowledge transfer and this will not change. However, allowing a kinesthetic approach involves movement of the whole body, enabling the student to use the body to aid remembering. Some students use a pen when reading to mark the word they are reading, some use their fingers; all enable a better learning experience. Moving the learning into movement requires a different approach.

The SCTE has moved its education into different media such as training books, courses, PDFs and now into a Learning Management System (LMS). This opens the student to different stimuli through the text on the screen, videos, sound, clicking on information; all of these move the student towards a range of different learning approaches.

The stages of learning are Remembering and Recalling; Understanding; Applying; Analysing; Evaluating; and Creating and Developing.

• **Remembering and Recall** – this is retention of information and the ability to recall it when necessary.

• **Understanding** – using the knowledge and the ability to know when it is necessary to recall.

• **Applying** – this refers to applying facts, rules, knowledge, concepts and ideas, and using these when necessary.

• **Analysing** – breaking down the knowledge into its component parts, enabling knowledge to be used and utilised in different ways.

• **Evaluating** – judging the information against experience, value and ideas to enable clear knowledge of the right approach.

• **Creating and Developing** – using the knowledge to develop new areas, define a better approach and create new teaching.

These areas together create and disseminate knowledge with each step, so that learning then becomes integral to the engineer or the student.

The SCTE's LMS delivers online courses and training material to students. At present, the SCTE's 'Fibre Optic Transmission for Technicians' course and its 'Understanding Wi-Fi and Wireless Technology' course, as well as a taster course in Dutch and English, are available on the LMS.

The LMS provides consistency, tracking and reporting, engaging courses and gamification, while centralising the knowledge into one area allows consistency.

There are also a range of other benefits and advantages offered by the LMS. The course content can be kept up to date and any change in the course content can be implemented immediately. All a student needs is access to the internet to download a course. An email is all that is needed to enable the student to start the course.

The LMS also offers cost savings and allows a student to fit training into his/her schedule and take the course when time allows.

The LMS is easy to use, requires no advance training and is very accessible. Any person, or organisation, focusing on learning and development can use the LMS. It keeps the focus on the deployment of training and development and keeps the organisation ahead of competition and the workforce ahead of competitors.

SCTE TRAINING COURSES

The Society develops courses to fulfil current knowledge or technology gaps. With technology changing, the SCTE has stepped up the need for knowledge and the courses will soon be divided into smaller courses to allow students to progress from novice to expert in each knowledge area. The SCTE can customise courses to trainee requirements and offer smaller, tailor-made courses for students.

Over the next six months, the SCTE will be re-designing and aligning course content towards these smaller courses, incorporating new developments and developing small, subject-specific courses where knowledge of a specific area is necessary.

The SCTE training team can be emailed for specific information and advice at office@thescte.eu. You can also meet the team for an LMS demonstration on the Partnership Pavilion booth (8.F59) at IBC. Take the demo, test your knowledge and win a free holder for a tablet/mobile phone. Alternatively, see www.thescte.eu/professional-development or www.broadbandtraining.eu.

The SCTE is one of IBC's owners. Visit the SCTE at the Partnership Pavilion stand 8.F59.

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