M-LEARNING ADOPTION MODEL FOR UTM

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This thesis dedicated to...

My mother and father, who taught me that the best kind of knowledge to have is that, which is learned for its own sake

My beloved brother and sister

My love to you will always remain and thank you so much for being So patient and being there for me.

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ABSTRACT

M-learning is the use of electronic learning (E-learning) materials on mobile devices such as personal digital assistants (PDAs), Tablet PCs, mobile phones, Pocket PCs and in general every devices that are small and autonomous enough to help us in every moment of our life. With this new technology, learning will become more learner-centered and informal, rather than teacher-centered and formal. Adoption of M-learning refers to the interest of students and lecturers to use mobile devices in order to help them in their teaching and learning processes. But it is very considerable that decision of both students and lecturers to adopt M-learning is a long-term and complicated process and there are many factors that influence this adoption. In order to have successful adoption of M-learning determining these factors, eliminating problems, and highlighting the profits of this new technology for users are very essential. The aims of this project are to identify the factors that influence adoption of M-learning by users in UTM and to propose suitable Mlearning adoption model for UTM. In order to reach this aim an interview is conducted by IT manager of CTL and two sets of questionnaire are distributed among students and lecturers. Analyzing these information shows that factors like Perceived Ease of Use, Perceived Usefulness, perceived Mobility Value, Prior Use of E-learning, Self-efficacy, Attitude Toward Using are main factors influencing adoption of M-learning in UTM. Furthermore, faculty and age differences are two moderators that also can impact this adoption. Finally, some recommendations are given to help CTL to have successful M-learning adoption in UTM.

ABSTRAK

mobil Pembelajaran merupakan pembelajaran elektronik secara menggunakan peranti elektronik seperti pembantu digital peribadi (PDA), Tablet PC, telefon bimbit, Pocket PC dan pada umumnya apa sahaja peranti yang kecil dan bebas untuk dibawa ke mana-mana. Pembelajaran akan lebih berpusatkan kepada pelajar dan tidak formal berbanding dengan pembelajaran masa kini yang kebanyakkannya masih berpusatkan kepada pengajar dan berbentuk formal. Terma yang digunakan untuk merujuk kepada minat dan keinginan pelajar serta pengajar untuk menerima pembelajaran mobil dalam proses pengajaran dan pembelajaran ialah 'adaptasi terhadap pembelajaran mobil'. Tahap penerimaan atau adaptasi pelajar dan pengajar terhadap pembelajaran mobil melibatkan proses yang rumit dan kompleks. Terdapat banyak faktor yang menyumbang kapada adaptasi tersebut. Bagi memastikan adaptasi penggunaan pembelajaran mobil yang berkesan, faktor-faktor yang menyumbang kepada kejayaan proses adaptasi, kekangan yang timbul serta penekanan terhadap kelebihan penggunaan pembelajaran mobil perlu dikaji. Matlamat projek ini adalah untuk mengenalpasti faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi adaptasi pembelajaran mobil di Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) dan mencadangkan model yang sesuai untuk adaptasi penggunaan pembelajaran mobil dalam proses pengajaran dan pembelajaran. Bagi mencapai matlamat tersebut, kutipan data melalui kaedah temubual dan borang kaji selidik telah dijalankan di kalangan pelajar dan pensyarah di UTM. Faktor-faktor berkaitan adaptasi yang telah dikenalpasti yang menyumbang kepada model adaptasi pembelajaran mobil di UTM adalah: Persepsi Kemudahan Penggunaan, Persepsi Kegunaan, Nilai Mobiliti yang dirasakan, Pengalaman Penggunaan E-learning, Efikasi Kendiri dan Sikap Penggunaan. Selain itu, fakulti dan perbezaan usia adalah dua pembolehubah moderator yang juga boleh mempengaruhi adaptasi ini. Beberapa cadangan telah diberikan untuk membantu Pusat Pengajaran & Pembelajaran, UTM bagi menjayakan adaptasi pembelajaran mobil di UTM.

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CHAPTER 1

PROJECT OVERVIEW

1.1 Introduction

In the technology world with rapid changing, the only one main way to win the competition is to become more active and energetic. We live in a complex networked planet so we should adopt our life with new technologies and use them to improve ourselves.

According to Hanna (2009):"big revolution in information and communication technology (ICT) has been a basic source of the fundamental changes and a key driving force for innovation and learning. ICT has provoked the hopes and fears of countries at all levels of development. Rapid advances in ICT have been shaping globalization, and business networking and enterprise transformation".

Some reasons cause big changes in the services of network both in the scale and pace, such as becoming universal, increasing automation, use of the Internet, and mobile devices. Rapid advances of wireless technology and mobile devices lead us to this point that training and education cannot ignore the use of mobile devices in the learning process.

In a period of time main focus was on the development of examples and methods to deliver the educational materials on the personal computers that were located in the learner's home or office. These computers are very heavy and have large screens. However, nowadays a big motivation has been seen among students and lecturers to use mobile devices for educational purposes. Therefore, we can have any time and any where educational world (Attewell & Savill-Smith, 2004). Students and staff are willing to improve Mobile Learning (M-learning) system in their educational processes.

There are many definitions given to M-learning, but in this research M-learning is defined as: the use of electronic learning (E-learning) materials on mobile devices such as personal digital assistants (PDAs), Tablet PCs, mobile phones, Pocket PCs, palmtop computers and in general every devices that are small and autonomous enough to help us in every moment of our life (Attewell & Savill-Smith, 2004). M-earning is a new model of E-learning, which combines mobile computing and E-learning. With this new technology learning will become more learner-centered and informal, rather than teacher-centered and formal.

1.2 Background of the Problem

Recently, web is considered as a new and modern and effective learning environment in field of E-learning (Y.-M. Huang, Chen, Huang, Jeng, & Kuo, 2008).

Valderrama, Ocan[~] a, & Sheremetov (2005) stated that:" in E-learning systems learners are not restricted to a particular content system (interoperability), The material does not have to be rewritten if the course or an interactive training electronic manual is updated, and the development of a high quality course avoids duplicating effort from the design process (reusability)".

Many universities have used Learning Management Systems (LMS) and made a flexible learning environment by promote the collaboration and online communication. In addition, LMS suggests many opportunities to students, but it really depends on a computer terminal and it is the main problem of this technology. Recently, there are many discussions on generation Y which is the new generation. The prominent characteristic of generation Y is to use the mobile and small devices to improve the learning procedure by complete existing systems (Mellow, 2005). Nowadays, Short Message Service (SMS) text messages are used for learning in some educational institutes. With regard to the emotion of students to adopt and use mobile devices, institute and organization should think about some form of mobile delivery and this is the best time to start this new educational stage (Mellow, 2005).

An open-source, user-friendly Learning management System (LMS), Moodle have been used from the beginning of 2004 in Universiti Teknologi Malaysia with the aim of better and easier learning. This technology is like a bridge of communication and collaboration between students and lecturers. This system is not limited in the physical places and even is not bounded by the class time. Current E-

learning solves many problems of the students for example: it makes the relationships faster and easier for both students and lecturers, the students do not have to meet their lecturers every day. They can communicate with each other, gain their assignments, and check their marks via E-learning anytime and anywhere. Furthermore, lecturers can use new teaching plans, save their time, and identify excellence students easier.

The main target of E-learning is to have excellent teaching practice and to improve that practice. But still this aims could not be achieved in the E-learning at UTM. Unfortunately lecturers and students in some faculties of UTM do not use Elearning fully. Some of the lecturers use E-learning 3-4 times a week, and some other use E-learning less than once a week (Yahya, 2009). Furthermore, Kurnia (2009) found that most of the students have difficulty to access E-learning in UTM because of network connection problems. And also he claimed that E-learning in UTM already has communication and sharing features like discussion forum and siswa mail but these services are not used frequently by students. Mobile technology with its new features can solve some of these problems. It provides many opportunities for widening participation and enabling easier access to learning. Mlearning makes basic changes in the way learning can be regarded and allow users to make benefits from its countless capabilities for educational context (MacCallum & Jeffrey, 2009). But it is very important that decision of both students and lecturers to adopt M-learning is a very long-term and complicated process and there are many factors that influence this adoption (Callum). In order to have successful adoption of M-learning determining these factors, eliminating problems, and highlighting the profits of this new technology for users are very essential.

With regard to above-mentioned discussion and portability, low cost, and communications features of mobile devices, this study focuses on identifying the factors that influence adoption of M-learning by users in UTM and proposing a suitable model for this adoption.

1.3 Problem Statement and Research Question

In order to address key issues as mentioned at previous sections, the main research question for this study is:

"How can M-learning be adopted by users in UTM to support teaching and learning?"

The three sub questions have been formulated:

- 1. What are the factors that influence the adoption of M-learning in higher education?
- 2. What is the model for M-learning adoption in UTM?
- 3. What are the recommendations for UTM to adopt M-learning?

1.4 Project Objectives

Objectives of this study are:

- 1. To identify the factors that influences the adoption of M-learning in higher education
- 2. To propose a model for M-learning adoption in UTM.
- 3. To provide recommendations for adoption of M-learning in UTM.

1.5 Project Scope

This project focuses are only on the **students and lecturers** in 2 faculties which are high usage of E-learning which are the faculty of **Computer Science & Information Systems (FSKSM)**, and **the Faculty of Education (FP)**, and also one faculty which is low usage of E-learning **Faculty of Built Environment (FAB)**.

1.6 Importance of Research Study

The benefits of this study are:

- Main contribution of this research is proposing a M-learning adoption model for UTM.
- Identifying the factors that contribute to adoption of M-learning by users is another target of this research.
- This research will also be able to give recommendations to help CTL to make adoption of M-learning easier in UTM.

1.7 Summary

In this chapter at first an introduction about the main points of the project has been discussed. The problem background and statements have also been mentioned in order to clear introduction of the project, and to explain why this project has been chosen. The objectives, scope and importance of this project have also been described.

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