Concept mobile App for Course Management

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Overview

- Introduction
- Challenge
- Course management
- Mobile devices
- Concept solution
- How to
- Conclusion

Introduction

- The modern learner
  - Use of electronic tools
    - reading & communication
  - Vast information sources
    - INTERNET and on-line resources
  - Fast pace of Activity
    - Immediate response
  - Dual or multiple social contexts
    - Digital/on-line

Challenge

- Getting and keeping learners interested and motivated enough for learning to take place.

- How to improve the modern learners overall perception of and participation in a course?
  - Institutional courses, e-learning, MOOCs, etc..

Course management

Task/activity	One time	Daily/weekly	Periodic	Notes
Presentation of course outline	x		x	
Delivery of content		x		Scheduled
Students/ groups activities	x	x	x	Tutorial groups, lab groups, etc
Assignments/ Homework		x	x	
Tests /progress assessments/ feedback			x	
Registration/ Examination	x			
Grading	x	x	x	

Mobile device

- Convergence of different technologies
  - Voice communication
  - Store and forward push messaging: sms
  - Digital aids/utilities: calendars, reminders, notes
  - INTERNET access: instant messaging, chats, web & e-mail access, VOIP
  - Extendable via small software applications
  - Unique terminal ID: (at least one number/ID per user)

Concept matching

Course Task/activity	Smartphone feature
Registration	One-time activity, with scheduled ability to un-register.
Presentation of course outline	Digital aids (calendars + reminders)
Delivery of content	Push notification of new topics & reference e-books and library book availability or purchase information.
Students Groups / activities	Notification of activity schedule/meetings
Assignments/ Homework/ tests / exams	Advanced Notification of due dates / schedule
Grading/ assessments/	Notification of availability and scheduling of appointments

Privacy and security consideration

- Privacy
  - No association of phone number to student ID or personal Data required.
  - On-line registration via direct link to Institutional resource where available.

- Security
  - No storage of local data or access credentials
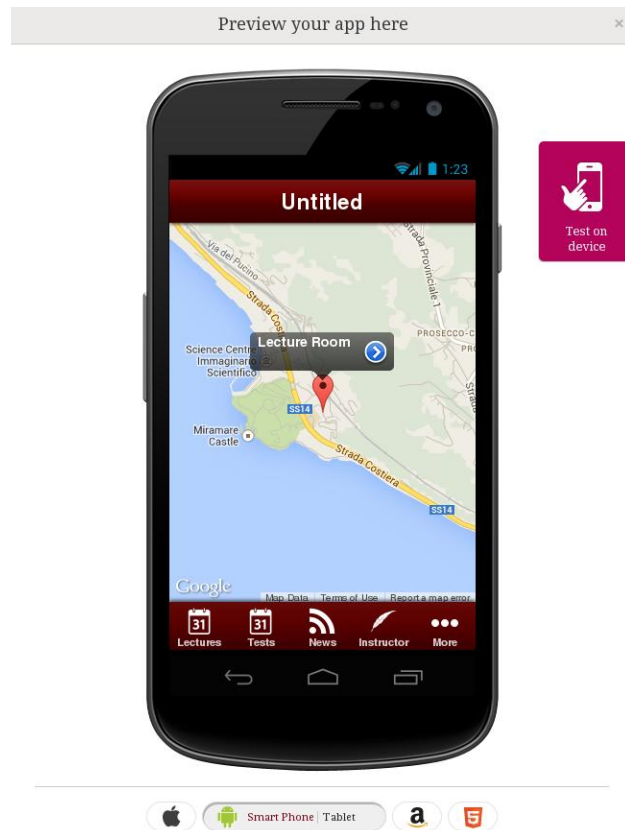 - No direct access to personal grading information.

Building the App

- Supporting multiple devices/platforms
  - Android, Apple iOS, Windows Phone, Blackberry OS and others
- Availability/Download
  - (shop/non-shop based)
- Various on-line frameworks/sites with free offerings (no coding required) including:
    - http://mobile.conduit.com
    - http://appery.io
    - http://appypie.com
    - http://www.appmakr.com

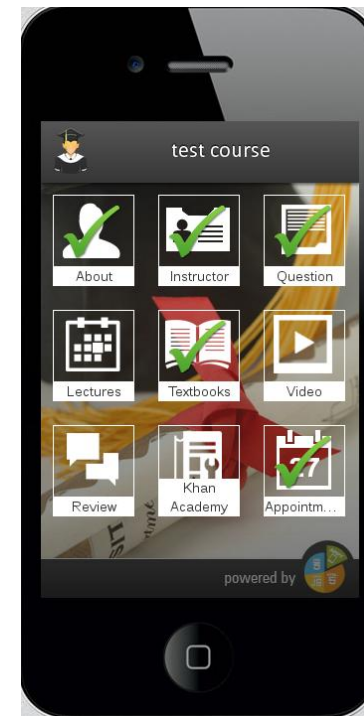# Features of on-line frameworks

- Contents
  - Direct link to web-pages, events & calendars,
  - Face-book page, e-reader, twitter and RSS feeds..
  - Video playlist, Khan Academy, Ustream..
- Style
  - Color, icon, etc..
- Informative text

Examples of concept apps

Using Mobile conduit

Using Appy Pie

Conclusion

- The concept smart-phone app focuses on the delivery of course management services to the learner in a manner that resonates easily with current/future generations of young learners.

- Building and deploying a course management app for "free" is possible with existing on-line resources but *one or more open-source tools is urgently needed for this functionality*.