

Project working title: “A Course on Business Information Systems”

Project team:

No.	First name	Surname	Student ID	<i>title.wordpress.com</i>
1	Marcus	Birkenkrahe		wimpole ¹
2	Matthias	Mundt		emwega ¹

Table 1: project team members

1. Goal

This blog-based course² will provide the student with a working knowledge of business IT applications in five different areas: Digital Enterprise Management, Content Management Systems, Business Process Modeling, Relational Database Management Systems. It involves textbook-like material, exercises, a set of Internet-based tools as well as articles, comments and links.

Formally, the blog supports a course on business information systems (BIS) for undergraduate students at the Berlin School of Economics and Law. It provides information on several BIS topics, on the course framework and syllabus, on the course tools and on projects created by students. The course follows a “blended learning” concept in that the online part supports physical sessions of 4+2 hours each week during the term.

Audience. The primary target audience for this blog are undergraduates from two courses, LV 200792 (“Betriebliche Informationssysteme”) in the Bachelor Business Administration programme, and LV 400792 (“Business Applications”) in the International Business Management programme at the Berlin School of Economics.

Since this blog-based course (distributed under a Creative Commons copyright license) is on the Internet, secondary audiences include other educators from inside or from outside the school, or other students (who will, however, not have access to the content living in the ILIAS learning management system of the school).

Objectives. By using the site and the blog, course participants get an overview of the four different course topics, which they can explore using a wide spectrum of links to publications, podcasts and sites. They also see a real life example of a blog-based learning module, which will help them create their own learning module using blogging software.

2. Process

Users can get information about different subjects related to BIS and through the Links in any way they like, without a specific time line. In addition, blog articles, posted at least once a week throughout the semester,

1) Only as an example for individual blogs of project members- bisblog.birkenkrahe.com is not a wordpress.com hosted blog.

2) This "project exposition" was created after the fact as an illustration for students.

link the physical part of the course to the online part by providing additional content, especially exercises for the students, or summaries. Each main course topic is taught in class during ca. 3 sessions. At the end of each session, relevant material from the blog articles is moved to the respective pages. There is also ample material on course tools: mastering these tools is part of the course objective.

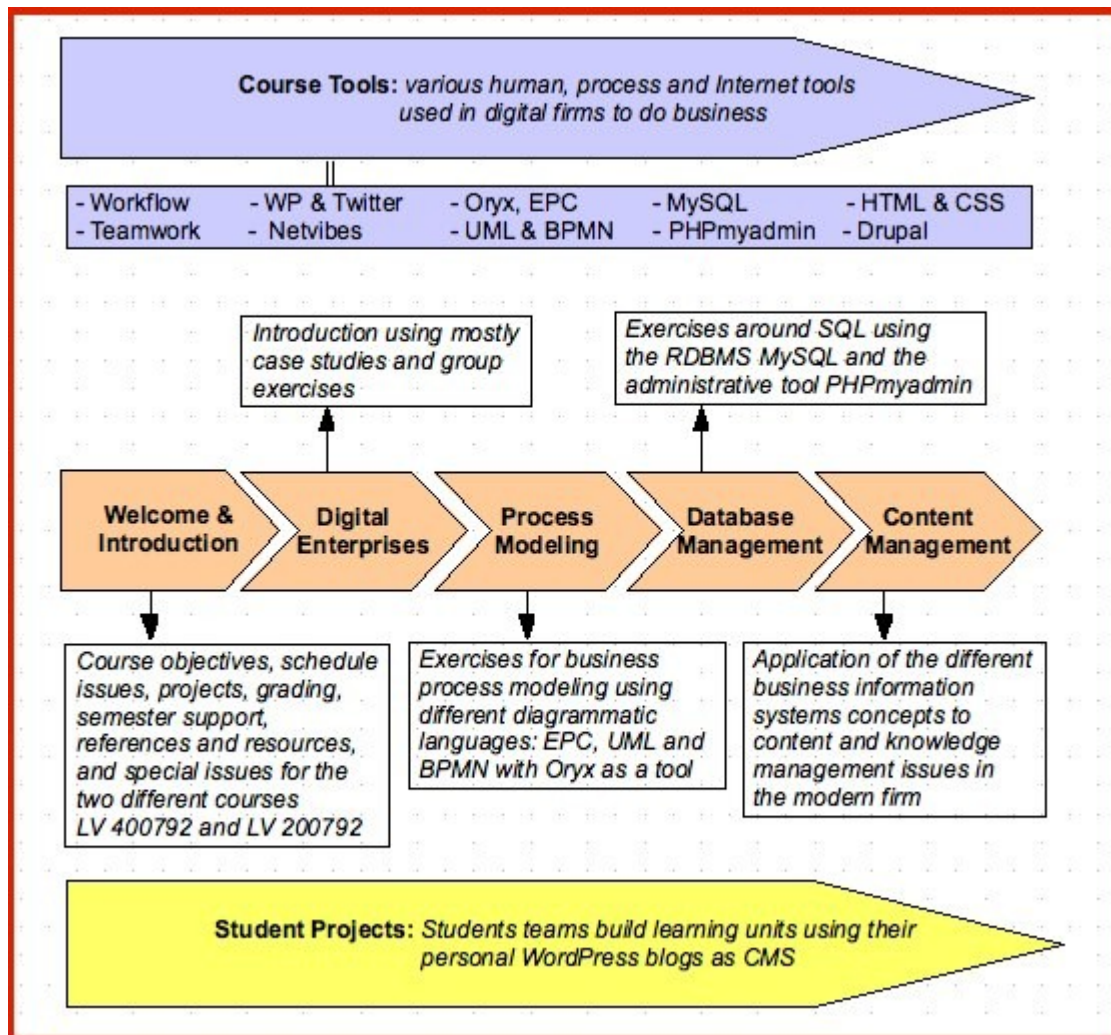


Illustration 1: Overview of course topics and processes

There is also a meta-blog at <http://elernen.wordpress.com> with regular information on the course progress.

3. Work packages & Structure

Table 2 shows different page hierarchies (nested pages) and fields visible in the blog sidebar. The pages (main page tabs) are not shown in the order in which the topics are introduced in the course, since they do not build on one another and can be used independently.

The sidebar entries serve site navigation and provide sample blog links, site links relevant to IT, and links to help students build their own WordPress blogs.

No.	Title	Description	Author(s)
0	About the Course - page hierarchy	Framework for course, including schedule, location, grading, authoring and historical information	Marcus Birkenkrahe and Matthias Mundt
1	Content Management - page hierarchy	Main course topic "Content Management Systems" (CMS)	Marcus Birkenkrahe
2	Course Tools - page hierarchy	Tools used during this course, including: blogs, twitter, html, css, oryx, ILIAS	Marcus Birkenkrahe, Matthias Mundt
3	Database Management - page hierarchy	Main course topic "Relational Database management systems" (RDBMS), in particular MySQL and Entity-Relationship Diagram (ERM) technique	Marcus Birkenkrahe
4	Digital Enterprise - page hierarchy	Main course topic "Digital Enterprise Information Systems"	Marcus Birkenkrahe
5	Process Modeling - page hierarchy	Main course topic "Business Process Management" (BPM) and modeling techniques, including Event-controlled Process Chains (EPC), Unified Modeling Language (UML), Business Process Modeling Notation (BPMN)	Marcus Birkenkrahe
6	Student Projects - page hierarchy	Table of contents for student blog projects created during this course	Matthias Mundt
7	Links - sidebar list	Links to other blogs, to BIS relevant sites, to Twitter timelines and to WordPress sites	Marcus Birkenkrahe and Matthias Mundt
8	Search - sidebar form	A simple theme widget allowing to search the site content	Marcus Birkenkrahe and Matthias Mundt
9	Posts - sidebar form	A simple theme widget allowing to search for post categories	Marcus Birkenkrahe and Matthias Mundt
10	Tag Cloud - sidebar form	A 3D display of article tags allowing to search for post tags	Marcus Birkenkrahe and Matthias Mundt

Table 2: Work packages correspond to main page tabs and sidebar fields

4. Schedule

The two main authors work continuously on the site, therefore there is no mapping of the preliminary schedule to different authors. (*Your project schedule will have to be more detailed and break tasks down to weekly activities.*)

Month	Activity	Description
February 2009	establish site at birkenkrahe.com	moved to virtual server package of Internet provider
	install and customise WordPress software	choice of theme and colors
March 2009	establishing ILIAS support structure	
	provide initial content	stubs for main topics, details for course framework ("About the course")
	establish meta blog at elerner.wordpress.com	running commentary on what worked and what didn't during the course; mixed didactic comments and thoughts
April 2009	begin to use site in class	
	improve digital enterprise section	add text, links and exercises
May 2009	improve process modeling section	add text, links and exercises
June 2009	improve database management section	add text, links and exercises
July 2009	improve content management section	add text, links and exercises
	add student projects	links to student team project blog pages
	student survey on class	questions on the course quality and possible improvements on concept and implementation
September 2009	improve entire course	adaptation for new course
	add ERP section	add text, links and exercises

Table 3: Schedule summer semester 2009