

# Teaching IT online

SQL Star International Limited recently launched thelearningport.com, a web portal dedicated to imparting professional IT courses.

E-learning has been there for quite a while, yet e-learning continues to dodge, with most of the courseware available on-line, with the absence of any personal interaction. Now, a new concept has evolved which goes beyond e-learning, it is the blended combination of off-line and on-line learning programmes.

Recently, SQL Star International Limited launched 'thelearningport.com', a web portal dedicated to imparting professional IT courses. Commenting on the portal, N R Ganti, Chairman & Managing Director, SQL Star said, "the portal is a pervasive learning portal offering blended learning with off-line and on-line education. The sole idea of this portal launch is to address the current employment needs and industry requirements."

For a first time user, this is what one needs to do - logon to the portal's website (www.thelearningport.com) and register as a user. Previews to technical news clips, technical course and module details, etc., are displayed to the user. Further, there is a demo course version available with a 48 hour time-out, which users can explore on

the site.

If one chooses to enroll for a full on-line course, the user is given full access to all the course modules, and the off-line support that comes bundled with the course. Besides, the on-line course is enhanced with support engines like on-line chats, bulletin board service (BBS), webinars, and latest web2.0 applications like wikis, and blogs.

## Online course information

Users can choose an entire course or specific modules. Information such as the cost of the entire course, each module cost, and number of hours devoted to each module is available on the website portal.

## Target audience

Candidates who are in the final year of their degree, un-employed persons, and professional executives can make effective use of this portal driven course. Students can enroll for the on-line course, and use this portal facility to further enhance their skill-set. Such value-added knowledge, makes the student 'employment ready'. For working professionals it comes in handy to sharpen their skill-set.

## Window of opportunity for experts

The portal comes as a window of opportunity for lecturers and subject experts. They can impart teaching lessons and at the same time track their student's performance, the time spent by each student on each module etc., by means of a tool, called learning module service (LMS) which is available on the web portal.

thelearningport.com, is uniquely poised to take technical education to a new level with a blend of e-learning with off-line support. Adequate use of this portal can be a big gain for student users, professional executives, and academia equally.

