

## December 2008 The Consultants-E Team



[ the road warrior edition... ]

Welcome to our regular newsletter exploring the world of ICT in education, online training & development. In this issue we look at the teacher / trainer as 'road warrior' and examine the best technologies to make your lives easier. If you've missed past newsletters, they can be downloaded in pdf format from our website at: <http://www.theconsultants-e.com/newsletter/>

You'll find the following sections in this newsletter:

- **STOP PRESS**
- **ON THE ROAD**
- **COMPANY NEWS & UPDATE**
- **CURRENT PROJECTS**
- **UPCOMING ONLINE COURSES**

We hope you'll enjoy this newsletter.

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### **STOP PRESS... STOP PRESS... STOP PRESS... STOP PRESS...**

Our two new fully-validated courses launch in January 2009. Building on previous courses, these are now fully-recognised international qualifications for teachers. YOU can find out more about these two courses in the '**Company News & Update**' section below

#### **Cert IBET - Certificate in International Business English Training [ 9 January to 26 March 2009 ]**

The Cert IBET (Certificate in International Business English Training) aims to meet the needs of business English trainers to enhance their skills and expertise, to increase their employability prospects in the sector, and improve their ability to deliver a quality product to potential clients. The Cert IBET course looks at a range of useful techniques, tools and resources for teaching Business English to learners, in 10 modules.

The Cert IBET is jointly validated and managed by English UK and Trinity College London, and we are proud to be the first and sole providers of this course entirely online.

<http://www.theconsultants-e.com/courses/be/index.asp>

### **Cert ICT -Certificate in Teaching Languages with Technology [ 9 January - 12 June 2009 ]**

The course examines a range of useful technology-related skills and tools which are immediately applicable in the language classroom. Course participants develop basic computer literacy skills, learn about various approaches to using technology in the classroom, explore (free) online tools, and have the opportunity to put these into practice over the duration of the course itself.

The Cert ICT is validated by Trinity College London and we are the sole providers.



<http://www.theconsultants-e.com/courses/trinityict/index.asp>

All our courses run entirely online in Moodle, and have a limit on the number of participants per course, so sign up early to avoid disappointment!

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## **ON THE ROAD**



As people who travel a lot we're constantly on the lookout for tools to simplify our existence. Going away from work and home for two weeks to run a training course entails not only a big suitcase, but also a heavy rucksack stuffed with cables, chargers, hard drives, laptops, data keys, phone, iPod and a few other things that we're trying to forget. Result? We tend to walk lopsided from the weight of eight or more kilos on one shoulder...

### **1. The Asus Eee Laptop**

<http://eeepc.asus.com/uk/index.htm>



Weighing in at under 1kg and with a battery life of nearly four hours, this ultra-portable laptop is a must if you're travelling. It has a solid state hard drive and a tough case (so you can drop it occasionally and knock it around in planes, trains and automobiles) and a wide selection of options including: 3 USB ports, a webcam, wireless net connections and stereo audio. Available with either Windows XP or Linux, it should suit the average traveler wanting email, net access and PowerPoint for conference presentations, etc.

## 2. The Chargepod

<http://www.callpod.com/products/chargepod>



The Chargepod can charge up to six gadgets at the same time from a single little unit neatly stored in a travel pack. You can forget taking the iPod, camera, and phone chargers with you with this little gadget and you can set everything to charge overnight. It's not only convenient, but will seriously cut down on the cables you lug around with you.

## 3. Creative Labs Travel Sound 400 Speakers

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/Creative-Labs-Travel-Sound-Speakers/dp/B0009S5GN4>



These travel speakers will provide loud and rich sound from any mp3 player in a very small and light package, powered by battery. They're also ideal for workshops and will even provide good enough volume for small conference halls where equipment may be lacking. The sound is crisp and loud, and battery life is excellent.

## 4. Logitech 2.4Ghz Cordless Presenter

[http://www.logitech.com/index.cfm/mice\\_pointers/presenter/&cl=us,en](http://www.logitech.com/index.cfm/mice_pointers/presenter/&cl=us,en)



This little gadget, also powered by a pair of AAA batteries is the ideal companion to PowerPoint when doing presentations or workshops. Replacing the mouse and allowing you the freedom to move around the room, the presenter has all the controls you'll need to move through presentation slides, as well as a slide timer and a small laser beam for pointing out relevant information on the screen and a special button for blanking out the screen when needed. Solidly-built, it's light and comes in its own travel pouch.

## 5. LaCie Mobile Disk

<http://www.lacie.com/uk/products/product.htm?pid=10989>



If you've ever experienced the sheer panic of turning up somewhere only to find that your

laptop won't boot up and all your materials are on it, you'll appreciate these external storage disks from Lacie. Available in sizes up to 320GB, they're USB powered and have enough space to hold all your important backups for just such a situation. Lightweight and small, they take their power from any USB-equipped PC. Throw in a protective case from Case Logic (<http://www.caselogic.com/>) just to be on the safe side.

### In the next newsletter...

Using video in the classroom - the Web 2.0 Approach. **Note:** You can download all our newsletters at: <http://www.theconsultants-e.com/newsletter/>

### Past issues...

- On The Road (December 2008)
- Twittering On (September 2008)
- Social Networks & Communities of Practice (February 2008)
- A Potted History of Technology in Teaching: The Future (December 2007)
- A Potted History of Technology in Teaching: The Present (November 2007)
- A Potted History of Technology in Teaching: The Past (October 2007)
- Information Overload (June 2007)
- Second Life II (February 2007)
- Second Life I (November 2006)
- Interactive Whiteboards (June 2006)
- Tools for teaching a language online (January 2006)
- ICT Skills for educators (October 2005)
- VLEs: Virtual Learning Environments (May 2005)

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## COMPANY NEWS & UPDATE

- **New Qualifications**
- **British Council ELTONs**
- **Second Life Update**
- **Updated Resources section on our website**

### New Qualifications

After a long period of validation documentation and negotiation we are proud to announce that two of our courses are now internationally-recognised qualifications. The Cert IBET - Certificate in International Business English Training (originally our 'How to Teach Business English') is now jointly validated and managed by Trinity College London and English UK. What's more, we are the only training organisation to be offering the course fully-online.



At the same time, our 'ICT in the Classroom' course has grown up and become the Cert ICT -

Certificate in Teaching Languages with Technology - and is now fully validated by Trinity College London, making it the first and only qualification for language teachers wishing to demonstrate their skills with technology and teaching.



The first iterations of these new international qualifications will be in January 2009. For more information, please contact Nicky Hockly: [nicky.hockly@theconsultants-e.com](mailto:nicky.hockly@theconsultants-e.com)

### British Council ELTONs

We are delighted to announce that Gavin's work with the EduNation@EduNation project in Second Life has been recognised by being shortlisted for the 2009 British Council Innovations Awards (ELTONs) in the UK category.

At the same time, The Language Teacher's Survival Handbook, written by TCE regular Lindsay Clandfield (and Duncan Foord), has been shortlisted in the international category, as has Steve Neufeld (who joins us as a full-time tutor in January 2009) for his team in Cyprus and the Lexitronics project.



Gavin and Nicky won an ELTON in 2007 for their 'ICT in the Classroom' course which has recently gone on to international recognition as the first professional ICT qualification for language teachers (see above). More information on the ELTONs can be found at the website: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/learning-eltons-shortlist-2009.htm> - we look forward to the evening (4th March 2009) and keep our fingers crossed.

### Second Life Update

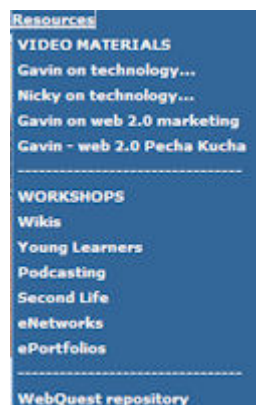
We have now launched the 2008-09 series of events on EduNation II in Second Life. The 'Coffee With...' series takes place once a month and features an interview with an educator working in SL, followed by a question and answer session with the live audience. The first two shows featured Gavin and Kyle Mawer (British Council) and the December event features Kim Anubis of '[Kim and the Magicians](#)' who will be looking at educational design in SL.



We are also preparing to launch the third annual Second Life Languages conference (SLanguages 2009) and will be issuing a call for papers in early 2009. Keep an eye on the [official SLanguages website](#) for more details.

Recently we have finished builds for the London School of Economics and also planned and delivered private training courses for Cambridge University Press. Whilst general new account creation has slowed on Second Life, the education community is as vibrant and busy as ever.

#### Updated 'resources' section on our website



We've updated the 'Resources' section of our website. You'll find a selection of video materials from past presentations and interviews given by members of the team, as well as material from workshops, such as PowerPoint presentations, and handouts. We add to this new section regularly, so keep your eye on it for new materials which you may find useful for your own teaching or training.

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## CURRENT PROJECTS

It's been a busy year and 2009 looks like being no quieter. Current projects include:

- A new four-month, six-country consultancy for the British Council in Asia working towards the setting up of virtual teacher support networks.
- A two-week British Council Hornby Summer School on technology in teacher training in Argentina in January
- English UK teacher training courses in January and March - all focussing on technologies

in the classroom and online teacher development

- Ongoing materials development work for the English 360 project
- The setting up and seeding of an online teacher development community for Avatar Languages based in Bolivia
- Advising the Escola Oficial d'Idiomes in Barcelona on the development of online language materials, including training teachers in materials development
- Writing a new column for English Teaching Professional from January 2009
- A new multilingual DVD language project with partners in the States, Italy, France and Spain
- Two new books - one on blended learning and one on basic English. We hope that at least one of these projects will reach the shelves in 2009
- A series of workshops in Saudi Arabia in January 2009
- We also continue to appear at various conferences including TESOL Spain, APAC, IATEFL and RELC in Singapore.

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## UPCOMING ONLINE COURSES

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The Cert IBET is jointly validated and managed by English UK and Trinity College London.



### **Cert ICT - Certificate in Teaching Languages with Technology** 01 October 2008 - 20 December 2008

The CertICT: Certificate in Teaching Languages with Technology is a new online international qualification, designed and developed by The Consultants-E, and fully validated by Trinity College London. The course examines a range of useful technology-related skills and tools which are immediately applicable in the language classroom. Course participants develop basic computer literacy skills, learn about various approaches to using technology in the classroom, explore (free) online tools, and have the opportunity to put these into practice over the duration of the course itself. [[more...](#)]

The Cert ICT is validated by Trinity College London.



### **Moodle Starter: An Introductory Course to learn how to use Moodle** 09 January - 14 March 2009

**40 hours over eight weeks.**

This course is aimed at teachers, trainers, tutors, facilitators, lecturers and mentors from any discipline and any level of education, who are interested in learning how to set up and use

Moodle to offer online courses. The course is run entirely online, in Moodle itself. [[more...](#)]

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**WebQuests  
1 February - 2 March 2009**

**30 hours over four weeks.**

The WebQuests course examines the theory and practice of WebQuests, and looks at real examples of WebQuests created for language learners. Participants design, plan and create their own WebQuest, for use in their own teaching context with their own learners, and put their WebQuest online using free WebQuest generator tools. [[more...](#)]

**E-Moderation: A Training Course For Online Tutors  
01 March - 30 March 2009**

**30 hours over four weeks.**

This course is aimed at teachers, trainers, tutors, facilitators, lecturers and mentors from any discipline and any level of education, who are interested in developing the skills necessary to become an effective e-moderator in online courses. [[more...](#)]

**Short courses: Podcasting, Wikis, Second Life, eNetworks, Blogs  
[ see dates on our website ]**

**10 hours over two weeks (each course).**

Podcasts, wikis, blogs and Second Life are ICT tools which are being used by increasingly numbers of teachers in the classroom – these separate short courses will teach you how to use them with your own learners! Each of these short two weeks courses looks at one ICT tool (podcasts, wikis, blogs or Second life) in depth. You will learn not only how the tool works, but how to set up projects with and for your own learners. Each course is hands-on and practical. With plenty of tutor guidance and support, you will learn to set up a project with these free Internet-based tools for your own learners. You will leave each course ready to try out the tool with your own classes. [[more...](#)]

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**That's it for this edition. We hope you've enjoyed the newsletter.**

**December 2008  
The Consultants-E Team**