UNIT 1. KEY FEATURES OF THE STRONG OFFLINE FUNCTIONALITY SYSTEMS

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To describe the key features of the strong offline functionality systems

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1.1. Introduction

According to some reports on global broadband, half the world is still not connected. For example, in Europe, 14 percent of households do not have Internet access, and 22 percent do not have a PC. Lack of digital inclusion, digital gender inclusion, and unreliable electricity supplies are not the only obstacles for students. People living in remote areas with disabilities, low income, low social status, and crises may have limited or no connectivity. Hence, organizations and educational institutions need to assess and devise alternative solutions. Moreover, offline access is advantageous for trainees who face network connectivity problems and travel frequently or live in remote areas.

Before explaining strong offline functionality systems, a series of tools in which they are based must be step-by-step introduced.

1.2. Learning Management System

LMS is the acronym for Learning Management System (Easy LMS B.V., 2022). An LMS is software that helps create, manage, organize, and deliver online training materials. It is usually used in companies for employees, but most strong offline functionality systems are offered for this purpose. Its main functions can be found in the abbreviation:

● Learning: The main purpose of an LMS is to provide and simplify learning.
● Management: With this software, online courses, participants, results, and the effectiveness of training material can be organized and managed.
● System: System is a nice word for making it sound more professional.

A Learning Management System always consists of two parts:

● An administrative interface. The administrative interface allows a training manager or performance instructor to create, manage, and organize all training materials. In addition, it is possible to extract deep reports (individual or group). The administrative interface usually consists of settings and functions to customize the training materials entirely.
● A user interface. The user interface is where the participant sees and experiences what an administrator created. Participants can access and participate in training materials from their personal computer or web browser.

1.3. E-learning

The meaning of e-learning comes from electronic learning. Another possibility is education and training through the Internet. This online teaching allows the user to interact with various computer tools.

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According to the previous definition, a series of essential characteristics of e-learning are listed: simplicity of use, multimedia system (text, audio, video, image); the distances between emitter and receiver disappear, economical for students, it is interactive and accessible, and the learning methodologies are adapted to the subject and the student (AVANZO, 2022).

1.4. M-learning

M-learning or mobile learning is understood as distance learning carried out using mobile devices such as mobile phones, tablets, and any small device with some form of wireless connectivity (Hijosa, 2015). M-learning and teaching have revolutionized the learning experience, rapidly gaining in popularity, especially among the millennial generation, which is attracted to mobile devices that are cheaper and easier to carry and handle than PCs. Mobile technologies enable ubiquitous learning, which positions the learner in both the real and virtual world, regardless of time and place (ispring, 2021).

The advantages of this e-learning modality are evident. The time we have available is very limited. This, together with other factors, such as the need to move around our work or waiting time at airports, stations, or simply waiting for a meeting, makes m-learning a perfect option to take advantage of these moments.

In addition, the younger population is used to performing many more tasks with their mobile devices. They have grown during the explosion, development and consolidation of these technologies. Their training has been informally linked to these devices almost without realizing it (Internet consultations, instant messaging groups with colleagues, etc.). For this group, it is difficult to assume that something they can do from the computer cannot be done from their mobile or tablet. For them, e-learning will have to be m-learning. Given that this generation will be part of professional environments in which continuous training is increasingly necessary for a few years, it is logical to think that mobile learning will be increasingly more important. Learners can share lesson plans, exchange advice, opinions and tips or immediately apply their knowledge, such as in the case of on-the-job and just-in-time training for employees who are constantly on the go or work remotely.

The problem arises when we cannot guarantee this connectivity, which is more frequent. There are still areas in our country where there is no 3G connectivity. In airplanes and trains (situations where it would be highly desirable to advance in our courses), connectivity is not possible or is very expensive.

For these situations where we are offline, ideally, we would be able to fast-forward content that we had previously downloaded when you did use Internet access. In addition, it would be necessary to allow our device to store our progress locally and synchronize it with the system when the connection is restored.

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1.5. Strong offline functionality systems

E-learning has almost disrupted the traditional education sector, even in the offline Learning environment. It can deliver content to the learners without being physically present to acquire the said knowledge. More and more courses have started becoming mobile-friendly (Paradiso Solutions, n.d.).

LMS that exhibits offline learning capabilities can help people without continuous internet connectivity. Also, faculty members who aren't gadget freaks and live in far-off rural areas. Besides, offline learning will bring along some respite from constantly being connected to the net.

Offline learning brings the willingness to pick up where the learner left off in the last training. Sometimes, it is impossible to finish the whole training in one go. Sometimes the reason may be a lack of internet connection or simply the student's inability to continue. But that does not mean that the student must start over from the beginning. Students don't have to worry about security. Sometimes, all course content is encrypted for the highest level of security and stored, which will be synced with the subsequent reconnection.

Strong offline functionality systems help the learners download the courseware whenever network connectivity is available and then engage in self-paced offline learning at their time convenience. Moreover, most LMS offer multiple operating systems and multiple browser support.

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