

Forgecom / LearnLogic

LearnLogic Ltd provides Web based training courses and includes tutor support. These are available to anyone in the UK, as part of the British government's programme on lifelong learning. The government programme has trained over 200,000 learners so far, and is attracting 10,000 new learners each week.

LearnLogic wins its learners through a highly attractive corporate offering. Learners enrol by telephoning LearnLogic's call centre, and when they complete a set of courses, they receive an incentive gift such as a personal Global Positioning System, a digital camera or a Palm Pilot.

The LearnLogic system, which includes support for a call centre and a website through which the learners are enrolled, was written by Lazysoft partner Forgecom, which specialises in writing tailored applications.

Looking For Breakthrough Technologies

Forgecom director Julie Hosegrove says "Forgecom is always looking for breakthrough technologies, and we discovered Lazysoft in January. When LearnLogic approached us with their requirements, we knew immediately that Sentences would fit those requirements perfectly."

The system that Forgecom developed using Sentences manages the registration of LearnLogic's learners, enrolling them on courses through the call centre, tracking their progress and their tutors' interactions with them, and completing all the necessary administrative documentation.

When the learner completes a group of courses, the system notifies a fulfilment company that automatically mails the chosen gift directly to the successful learner. The fulfilment companies are able to track demand through the website.

Needed Systems Immediately

Julie Hosegrove says "LearnLogic needed their system immediately. We developed the LearnLogic application within a month. Had we based the solution on a relational database, it would have taken six months and have been far more difficult to maintain."

"Sentences gave Forgecom the confidence they needed to deliver the solution to LearnLogic on time, within budget and at a fraction of the cost that a similar application, developed using relational databases, would have cost our customer."

Savings Exceed Costs

"The savings we have made to date from our new system are already far greater than the development costs", says Adrian Ladds of LearnLogic.

Adrian adds, "Not only that, but a few weeks after the application was completed, we wanted to enhance the ability to record tutor-learner interactions. On a relational database system, this would have caused disruption and additional cost. With Sentences' associative database, we achieved the result we wanted within a day and there was minimal disruption."