Are we Creating New Teaching Environments with Web Courseware Tools?

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Abstract: During the fall of 1998, the University of Texas at Austin adopted WebCT as a courseware tool for faculty who opted to enhance instruction. This poster session will present an overview of some of the online pedagogical issues and assumptions that must be addressed as faculty use this new learning environment. Most of UT's faculty training has concentrated on the mechanics of the software, since there tends to be a resistance to theoretical discussions. However, there is valid concern that technological convenience can take precedence over instructional practice. We are finding that faculty can create a course with WebCT, but need assistance finding ways to provide students with adequate information delivery, analysis, and in application opportunities. With online environments, learners can be more in control of learning, but they need guidance in order to activate appropriate learning strategies. Lessons learned and ways to address improving courseware instruction will be discussed.