

The convergence of training and performance

Developments in the distance learning industry are being accelerated by the emergence of the "electronic highway" and the restructuring of the telecommunications and information industries. At the same time, products and technologies which have applications in education and training, are also being used for carrying out work or performance related activities. Learning technologies are being used within the workplace as on-the job aids, or intelligent performance aids. Thus, even the separation between doing work and being trained for work, is diminishing as technologies enable individuals to train themselves while performing their jobs.

Towards a single identity

This report uses the term, Distance Learning Industry to capture the focus of the suppliers of products and services, from both the public and private sectors, to meet the needs of learners wherever they may be.

1.3 The Seven Sectors of the Distance Learning Industry

The Distance Learning Industry has proved difficult to define because it does not function as a discrete entity. Its technologies have many uses and applications. The diagram below shows the interdependence of technologies in a large enterprise where the interface for all these systems is the desktop computer.