"Battle of the eLearning Tools" – Part 1

ASTD PHL eLearning SIG – April 24, 2014

In this session twelve audience members were split among three teams. Each team separately discussed the tool(s) they would prefer to use based upon their collective experiences. The voting results are the opinions of each team expressed in the large group discussion/debate. A fourth vote was cast in rounds two and three as honorable mentions (*). Key comments are included for each round.

Scenario Descriptions	Articulate Storyline	Captivate	Articulate Studio 09	Other
Round 1 Training on new system that has a built-in workflow (with new process concepts); course completion and final assessment scores must feed into the LMS.	✓	✓✓		

COMMENTS
• Team 1: Storyline
    o Simulations can be effectively produced by editing the frames. Demos are captured as videos; can be edited with interactions and text to become a practice, i.e. TryIt.
    o Concept slides for presentation of process content; at the end an interactive test can feed results into an LMS, perhaps cleaner than Articulate Studio ('09).
    o Storyline has a lot of quiz capabilities – a few more than Captivate.
• Team 2: Captivate
    o All three types of simulations can be created simultaneously, e.g. Demo, Practice (TryIt), KnowIt (Test-Me?).
    o Concept slides can also be easily created.
    o Feeds cleanly into an LMS, i.e. GeoLearning (SumTotal).
    o Versions 6 and 7 run Action Script 3 and do not need an Articulate Presenter "wrapper" when loaded into an LMS like the older versions of Captivate.
    o QUESTION: Can KnowIts be graded? [Assumption – yes; need <mark>example</mark>]
• Team 3: Captivate
    o Works well for screen captures.
    o Features include robust branch quizzing with remediation quiz review.
    o For LMSs, Captivate 7 is Tin Can friendly (*.api)				

Round 2 PowerPoint "conversion" to an eLearning module will contain interactions and a quiz. Final version must be maintainable by client. Tiny budget!			✓✓✓	✓* (Lectora)

COMMENTS
• Team 2: Articulate Studio – use Engage and Quizmaker.
    o Simple product for people to use. $1,800 starts to get steep for independent Instructional designers/developers.
    o Lectora can do this too. However, the price tag is heftier; $2,400 ($900 as a renewal license).
• Team 3: Articulate Presenter (easy publish) use Engage and Quizmaker.
    o Articulate Presenter seems easier.
    o *Adobe* Presenter is buggy.
• Team 1: Articulate Studio for the same reasons.
Overall: This isn't really a quality ID scenario, but it happens. Get through it quickly and effectively; there are less hours available due to limited budget. Develop a simple yet quality solution with an easy-to-use tool. Be careful - do not create a page-turner.				

Round 3 – speed round Role-based process training will contain common core content; must also address specific exercises for each role (branching).	✓* (with Quizmaker)	✓✓✓		

COMMENTS

- Captivate: Simulations and branching.
- Storyline with Quizmaker: Can see a visual diagram when developing lengthy branching! For short branching, use layers on one slide. For heavy branching, use branching feature.
- Articulate Presenter/PPT and Quizmaker: Appears linear when developing; can create jump action buttons to have the user leap over to another slide in the file.

Round 4 – speed round Creative and interactive process training with video that also works on tablets.	✓✓	✓		

COMMENTS

- Captivate (MIXED opinions):
    o Animates.
    o HTML5 for mobile (v7.0.1)
    o Handles video (but only certain types); video can be too rich and makes file size too large.
    o Captivate starts to get too buggy when file size is too large. Your desktop must be able to handle or the file gets corrupted.
    o Be sure to TURN ON auto-back-up when doing this level of work in Captivate!!
    o MUST also be working on your C:/ drive and save working files there, not on a network.
    o SMEs can access published files on an FTP site versus emailing when the file size is large.

- Storyline: VIDEO and HTML5
    o May need an *Articulate Player* for iOS tablets (app was made because iOS didn't have HTML5 yet).
    o Publishes multiple options.
    o Side QUESTION: Does HTML5 feed to LMS? Mike's team is working on this. (LMS needs to be set up for mobile, first; company has to pay for this feature).
    o There is a limitation on the interactivity you can publish in HTML5.
    o Have to think through the end-state of deliverable, e.g. resolution size.

Resources to learn more:

- Learn on your own: **www.Lynda.com** (basic subscription is $25/month or $250/annual). <u>Suggestion</u>: Use the monthly subscription as a trial period. If you like it, invest in the annual subscription (money saver).

- Trial downloads: You can find Captivate (all versions), and Articulate Storyline, but not Articulate Studio.

Battle, PART 2 coming in JULY 2014. By popular request, participants will have the opportunity to showcase examples, e.g. a lesson or activity, similar to the scenarios from the Battle, Part 1. Examples must have been produced using tools similar to those discussed in April's session. The showcase format will be conducted in a small group format, and debriefed in a large group discussion for further Q&A. This will be a rich discussion and an opportunity to learn more about the authoring tools commonly used. All are welcome to participate in this session - even if you didn't attend the April session.

If you have a sample for any of the above scenarios and would be willing to share please contact Stephanie or John by July 10. Thanks!

Reminder: All samples must be scrubbed of proprietary information for non-disclosure purposes.