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1 Introduction Baking with software

Opening a cookbook and seeing a delicious cake makes your mouth water and very likely makes you want to bake that cake too. So, you check out the recipe.

Following a recipe means buying all the ingredients, preparing some of the ingredients before baking the cake and the use of an oven to bake the cake. Once you have organized this, the making of the cake can start step by step. You see the progress at any stage of the baking process, the so-called *cold preview* of the final product. You switch on the oven and presto out comes the cake in the set time. The user wishes or may need to set the time and temperature, but doesn't need to know how the oven does its work.

Making a WEBPAGE is like following a recipe: you see an exciting teaching tool at work. Teachers and students also wish to make a webpage, so they choose the ingredients, add instructions and the TB should do the rest of the work. The user doesn't need to know how the blender works, should not have to do anything that requires (advanced) PC skills and should have to press as few buttons as possible.

The current version of the Text Blender is a wonderful tool, but still a rather crude one. It has the right idea, but experience has shown that it is not an easy tool to use; there's no mouth-watering example and the entire procedure involves too many (sub-) steps and PC skills.

In paragraph 2 we have listed our comments per page of the current version of the TB and our recommendations.

In paragraph 3 we have tried to visualize our idea of what the (function of the) TB could (should) look like to make the users' lives easier on the basis of our comments and recommendations

2 Comments on the current version Text Blender

- Page 1 Overview
- There are two navigation routes, i.e. via the textboxes and the navigation buttons;
 - The example webpage is too small and cannot be clicked on. This should be the mouthwatering example.
 - The SUMMARY button doesn't match the text underneath

- Recommendations
- The example webpage should be an attractive and working demo. This will also make the user think of what he can do with the webpage;
 - There should be a suggestion for the user to finalize the aim of the webpage and the ingredients that he/she wishes to use
 - The picking and choosing of the ingredients should require as few computer skills as possible. The tool should do most of the work
 - Navigation should be simple, step by step and in a logical order

Page 2 Media

- The "NO MEDIA"-button is superfluous. However, in this version the TB doesn't allow the user to skip this button.
- The video/audio source procedure is confusing.
- What is the difference between a video player and a YouTube player (since if you choose "video player" you have the option again for an internet video)?
- At the instructions is written "copy the FULL text" instead of full address, and it is confusing).

- Recommendations
- Allow the user to just use VIDEO file and AUDIO file (URL or local)

Page 3 Instruction

- matching the text boxes with an example of a WEBPAGE we haven't seen before is confusing.
- It's not clear that the button NEXT refers to following exercises or other web pages etc.
- The whole page is too diffuse and requires too much reading and understanding

Recommendations

- It's easier, we think, if the process of selecting the media and the instruction is combined and made as automatic as possible (see example later on)

Page 4 Edit and installation

- It is not clear (easy) to add your own dictionary;
- Too many buttons on this page;

- The “navigation arrows” on previous pages have disappeared; it is not easy to find your way back to the list of dictionaries. We tried!!

Recommendations

- Adding a dictionary should be a matter of adding a URL to a list of pre-set dictionaries. This will also reduce the number of buttons on a page
- There must be a similar navigation system and interface in all pages, same buttons etc.

Page 5 Main content of the webpage

- it may be confusing for users to see the button Graphics or Video; after all they have just selected the media. We understand that users may wish to use small video clips in the text body box;
- Every time you go beyond this page and then return to the page the number of the text block changes; it's not possible to see and correct your previous texts, you have to delete everything
- Why have a button CHANGE FONT if the font of the final lay-out will not be affected?
- What exactly is the function of the FINISH button (while at the Media page you don't have even the chance to look at it a second time, it goes directly to the next page)? Once you've filled everything on, the navigation buttons should take you further

Recommendation

- Just have 1 text block, no more
- Do or do not allow the user to change the FONT; changing this should affect the final presentation of the text.

Page 6 Summary and export

- The summary is just TEXT; it doesn't show thumbnails of the choices you have made. The button EXPORT should just show the final webpage.

Recommendations

- choosing a video, audio or picture should show thumbnails of the chosen media or picture. Then you see that during the process you are looking at the ingredients of the final webpage

3.1 The TB as a didactic tool

The TB is used by teachers (part of teaching material) and students (presentations). As such it should start with the option to view some “mouthwatering” examples. Not only does this act as an appetizer, but it also gives an immediate idea of what a WEBPAGE made by TB is and looks like.

The teacher or student will make their choice of the ingredients based on their AIMS for the webpage, so it will motivate them to think at all times: what ingredients do I use and what do I use them for?

3.2 An easy, step by step approach

Making a webpage should be like baking a cake, as said before, i.e. the user should be able to select the ingredients and should see at all times the result of adding each ingredient to the product in progress and offer a “cold preview” of the webpage before the TB does its magic, i.e. create the final webpage.

Our comments, based on testing the TB ourselves in class, have shown that the current version of the TB:

- requires too many and often confusing steps;
- requires more than a basic knowledge of PC skills;
- doesn't allow the user at all times a view of the selected ingredients (media, text, pictures, instructions etc);

Whether designed and developed with TOOLBOOK or any other software (after all, we are now 1.5 years into this project), to our minds software that enables you to make exciting web pages for educational use, should be simple.

The justification of POOLS-T shows that many teachers are too busy or do not have enough skills to refer to a manual too often, particularly if the manual is as big as it is today. Experience has shown that if the user is not shown exciting examples and is thus dependent solely on a comprehensive manual, many may switch (the TB) off.

In paragraph 3 therefore we have tried to visualize our brainstorming session: the layout, the instructions for the user (i.e. the person who is making the webpage) bearing in mind that the user should be able to have a cold preview of the product in progress at all time during the cake making stage. The TB should do most of the work and therefore more than it does now.

An example is “adding a dictionary” a laborious process that doesn't stimulate users whereas it's important that new and better online dictionaries come out all the time and should be added to the preset list with the greatest of ease.

A HELP button underneath each section should offer the right support for the user to offer extra information or instructions

Please do bear in mind that the visualization is no more than an attempt to shape our thoughts and ideas and created for no other reason than to make our lives as teachers as easy as possible! It must be seen as a basis for further discussion with other partners.

3.3. A visualization of the (lay-out of the) TB new style

First we show the template. In 3.4 you see the results of each choice and the way this affects the lay-out:

BUILDING YOUR OWN WEBSITE

Click on a title to see an example of a webpage

Biology *The climate change*

Engineering *The engineer*
Etc

_____ .HTM

Create your own webpage! Give it a name

HELP

Do you wish the webpage to start with a video?

Click on LOCAL if the video is on your hard drive (D) Local video

Click on URL if the video is on the internet Internet video

Type here your instruction for the user of your webpage

HELP **DELETE VIDEO**

Do you wish the webpage to start with audio?

Click on LOCAL if the audio is on your hard drive (D) Local audio

Click on URL if the audio is on the internet Internet audio

Type here your instruction for the user of your webpage

HELP **DELETE AUDIO**

Do you wish to use TEXT with the video or audio?

Type or paste your TEXT here:

Type here your instruction for the user of your webpage

HELP **DELETE TEXT**

BUILDING YOUR OWN WEBSITE

Do you wish to use pictures in the text?

Click on LOCAL if the picture is on your hard drive (D)

LOCAL 1

LOCAL 2

LOCAL 3

Click on URL if the picture is on the internet

URL 1

URL 2

URL 3

HELP

DELETE PICTURES

Do you wish to link all the words in the text to an online dictionary?

Click on LIST for the pre-set list of online dictionaries

LIST (pop-down menu)

Click on ADD to add the URL of new online dictionary

ADD

HELP

Click on NEXT to add other assignments to webpage

NEXT

HELP

DELETE EXERCISES

Give me a PREVIEW of the webpage I am making

PREVIEW

HELP

Click on SEND to send the webpage to a user

SEND

HELP

3.4 The results of the choices

Intro: I have chosen

- the name MYWEBPAGE mywebpage.htm
- a local video film.wma
- the film text text from the film
- a picture of the Beagle Beagle.jpg
- an English – English dictionary from the list English – English
- No NEXT assignments

BUILDING YOUR OWN WEBSITE

- Click on a title to see an example of a webpage
- Biology *The climate change*
 Engineering *The engineer*
Etc

- Create your own webpage! Give it a name **MYWEBPAGE.HTM**
 HELP

- Do you wish the webpage to start with a video?
Click on LOCAL if the video is on your hard drive (D) **D: my documents/film.wma**
Click on URL if the video is on the internet Internet video

- Type here your instruction for the user of your webpage

Watch the video as often as you like. Make notes while you watch to answer the following questions

- 1. What is the aim of the BEAGLE voyage?**
- 2. What is the main task of the Dutch team on the BEAGLE?**

- HELP** **DELETE VIDEO**

- Do you wish the webpage to start with audio?
Click on LOCAL if the audio is on your hard drive (D) Local audio
Click on URL if the audio is on the internet Internet audio

- Type here your instruction for the user of your webpage

- HELP** **DELETE AUDIO**

Do you wish to use TEXT with the video or audio?
Type or paste your TEXT here:

*The Beagle has finally started its voyage in the wake of Darwin.
Last Sunday the ship left the port of Plymouth after some delay due
to problems with the navigation instruments. Etc, etc.*

Type here your instruction for the user of your webpage

Click on every word of the text for a description in English

HELP

DELETE TEXT

Do you wish to use pictures in the text?

Click on LOCAL if the picture is on your hard drive (D)

LOCAL 1

LOCAL 2

LOCAL 3

Click on URL if the picture is on the internet

<http://t2.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:DEFi0nvDcl5mDM:https://www.geology.ucdavis>

URL 2

URL 3

HELP

DELETE PICTURES

Do you wish to link all the words in the text to an online dictionary?

Click on LIST for the pre-set list of online dictionaries

English-English

Click on ADD to add the URL of new online dictionary

ADD

HELP

Click on NEXT to add other assignments to webpage

NEXT

HELP

DELETE EXERCISES

Give me a PREVIEW of the webpage I am making
 HELP

PREVIEW

Click on SEND to send the webpage to a user
 HELP

SEND

3.5 A preview of the webpage

This is a preview of the webpage based on the choices made in 3.4. I clicked on PREVIEW and the following webpage appears.

Mywebpage.htm



Watch the video as often as you like. Make notes while you watch to answer the following questions

- 3. What is the aim of the BEAGLE voyage?*
- 4. What is the main task of the Dutch team on the BEAGLE?*



The Beagle has finally started its voyage in the wake of Darwin. Last Sunday the ship left the port of Plymouth after some delay due to problems with the navigation instruments. Etc, etc.

Click on every word of the text for a description in English