

## Quick News Digest from IT Skills Research (Jan 08)

The Institute of IT Training has announced the shortlist for the **IT Training Awards 2008**: candidates shortlisted for the blue riband Training Company of the Year award, sponsored by Prometric, include Firebrand Training (winners for the past two years), Global Knowledge, Oracle University and Happy Computers. IT services company **Logica CMG** is recruiting A-level students to fill IT vacancies following a drop in the number of students leaving university with IT degrees; some sources claim the UK needs about 150,000 new IT professionals each year, while there are only about 25,000 IT graduates annually. And **Cisco** is to require all Pearson VUE test centres delivering Cisco certification exams to collect digital photos and digital signatures during the admissions process, in order to improve candidate identity authentication.

Cultural and technological barriers are hindering the wider use of e-learning among UK organisations, according to a **survey of managers** by the Chartered Management Institute and the Centre for Applied Human Resource Research. It says resistance to e-learning is caused by the loss of the human touch, with 72% preferring face-to-face conversations while 46% said there are too many distractions diverting them from PC-based learning material. And analyst firm IDC says worldwide **IT spending** will grow at a slower pace in 2008, as economic uncertainties and downside risk dampen spending growth.

**Matchett** (formerly The Matchett Group) has sold 80% of its ownership to the CLT Group, a specialist provider of training for legal, corporate, financial, accountancy, regulatory, property, human resource and other professional sectors. **Knowledge Solutions** has taken a 51% stake in Enlight International, a market leader in European and International Computer Driving Licence tests (ECDL/ICDL) and Certification Management. And **Academy Internet** has secured £500,000 of new investment and working capital funding, and says it is now "primed for further expansion through a combination of continued organic growth and a series of planned acquisitions and mergers with other digital agencies in Brighton during 2008". The company has also appointed Paul Whitwam as Chairman.

**Frank Hojgaard**, Managing Director of Global Knowledge UK & Ireland, is leaving to return to Scandinavia with his family. Richard Pryor-Jones, President of Global Knowledge EMEA, is standing in while Hojgaard's successor is found, and **Janet Way** has been appointed UK Sales Director. Elsewhere the eLearning Network (eLN), the professional association of users and developers of e-learning, has appointed **Clive Shepherd** as its new chairman and Neil Lasher as deputy chair.

Among new product launches, **Red Hat** has announced the availability of two training offerings delivered by open source technology: Virtual Training, providing live streamed Web delivery of Red Hat training courses, and Live Access Labs allowing use of a remote Red Hat Enterprise Linux system. **Transcender** – part of Kaplan IT Learning and a provider of exam preparation software for IT certification tests – has released practice exams for Microsoft's new Windows Server 2008 certification track. And **Trainer1** is offering its customers Lectora 2008, the latest version of the Lectora authoring tool from Trivantis.

Microsoft has asked **Thomas Lee**, Chief Architect at Global Knowledge, to conduct a technical review of course content for the forthcoming release of Office Communications Server 2007; Global Knowledge has been closely involved in the Microsoft Readiness Program for OCS 2007. **Flagship Training** is deploying the InfoBasis Enterprise Skills Infrastructure (InfoBasis ESI) platform. And several e-learning companies have reported new wins: **Epic** is working with the Social Care Institute for Excellence to develop an e-learning programme on inter-professional working skills; TV company Sky has selected **Brightwave** to design and implement a series of interactive modules to support the rollout of Sky's new CAREs initiative throughout its Customer Operations department; **Intellego** has announced a partnership with Rightmove,

the leading property website, to provide an e-learning-based industry training portal that meets the regulatory and operational training needs of the estate agency marketplace; and the Institute of Direct Marketing has commissioned **Trainer1** to update e-learning materials for its professional qualifications programmes.

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