ABOUT THE SELECTION OF ONLINE PLATFORM FOR ORGANIZING EVENTS

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Abstract

The article considers the issue of determining an effective platform depending on the requirements for conducting online events, including classes. To do this, the characteristics of various online platforms were studied and the selection procedure was determined depending on the requirements.

Keywords: online conferences, web teaching, online classes, selection of online platforms

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Introduction

In the modern information society, the use of information technologies in the field of education improves the quality of the educational process. With the development of new information technologies, the range of information services is expanding, conditions are being created for the formation of a single global information and educational space. [1].

In the world, the type of education called distance education was associated with the emergence of web technologies. At present, the importance of using these technologies has increased even more.

Changes in science and technology in the digital world require a new approach [2]. Technological advances in education and online training require extensive work. Researchers constantly conduct research related to the technological development of education and online learning [3-5].

The practice of online learning is growing every year. In connection with the spread of the Covid-19 virus in the world, lessons have been started in remote form for pupils and students studying in secondary and higher educational institutions in most countries of the world. The organization of remote teaching of lessons in all educational institutions has become relevant for our country. The analysis of different experiences on the organization of lessons in online and hybrid form allows to evaluate the effectiveness of lessons. For this purpose, the issue of defining an efficient platform depending on the requirements put forward for conducting online events, including classes, was considered.

Opportunities of online platforms

The way to establish remote relations between people, including conducting remote classes, is through web technologies. For these purposes, new programs are created day by day, and the functionality of existing programs is constantly increased. Currently, the use of programs such as Skype, Zoom, Gotomeeting, Microsoft Teams, Whatsapp, Telegram, Google Meet, Cisco Webex, Moodle, Blackboard, Adobe Connect, which allow establishing online relationships, has become more sensitive. Online classes are also conducted on such platforms.

The quality of web teaching depends on many factors. Visuality and interactivity of each organized lesson are its main quality indicators. In order to increase the visibility of online classes, the possibility of using presentations and video materials has been taken into account in most of the programs mentioned above. Interactive explanation of the capabilities of the computer and various software tools in the training classes of a number of subjects taught in different areas, including informatics, increases the effectiveness of online classes.

The choice of a software environment for organizing web education directly affects its quality, so the choice of software is of particular importance. One of the factors to consider when choosing web conferencing software is the issue of information security. In general, when choosing software for conducting online classes, it is recommended to use software from more popular and reputable companies. It is recommended to download the program from the official site and avoid using pirated versions. In addition, when organizing a web conference, it is recommended that you enter a complex connection password to avoid discussing privacy-sensitive topics and not sharing documents with such content. Also, to protect against threats such as hacker attacks and the spread of confidential information, it is necessary to regularly monitor the video conference and remove unauthorized participants.

Skype, Microsoft Teams, Blackboard and other programs are used in many countries of the world to conduct online classes at universities. Various technical problems may arise during the organization and conduct of online classes. Among these problems, some of the students have a limited ability to join classes, sometimes the Internet speed is low, and the network is overloaded. In an environment where there are no problems of this type, mastering the rules of using these programs by various qualified specialists, including teachers and students, does not create a particular difficulty. Zoom is one of the programs that allows you to realize the above-mentioned requirements for a web conference and is therefore widely used in international practice.

About the capabilities of the Zoom platform

Through the Zoom program, it is more convenient to schedule meetings such as conferences, symposiums, congresses, seminars, webinars, classes at a predetermined time, enter the initial configuration parameters, and send the announcement of the scheduled meeting to the necessary addresses. The announcement shows the ID, link, topic, date, time, duration and other information of the meeting. The

settings of pre-scheduled meetings can be changed on the schedule. If necessary, it is possible to review the parameters of each lesson, change them and save them again. Please note that a password can be added to increase security. Participants can be pre-planned to join the conference before the organizer, automatically record the lesson from the moment it starts, activate sounds or videos when entering.

The lesson starts by pressing the appropriate button. At this time, you can review the list of participants. It is possible to enter students' names and surnames by changing them if the names of the devices used by the participants who did not enter the class or device users are displayed on the screen. The blocking feature can be used to prevent other device users from joining a conference that has already started.

The organizing teacher is given opportunities to manage the participants. Their management settings — their sound, ability to add notes to the screen, display screen or files from the device they're connected to, etc. — can be turned on or off throughout the lesson.

During lectures, it is more convenient to turn off the voices of the listening participants for a better transmission of the lesson. This prevents unnecessary noise from being transmitted to the network. The student can take advantage of the opportunity to raise his hand to address his questions. At this time, the organizer teacher can answer the questions by opening the voices of the participants who have raised their hands in turn, ensuring that the whole audience listens to the questions. These mentioned possibilities can be used during the course of conducting various surveys. In addition, students can write and send their questions and answers to the organizing teacher through the Zoom program. Information sent by one participant can be seen by all participants if the organizer allows it — that is, if he activates the appropriate feature. Thus, the organizer can obtain the results of the conducted surveys and inspections through the crack. It is also convenient to contact the chat if there is a problem with the audio transmissions, or if the voices of the participants are muted to improve the hearing quality of the organizing teacher. Students can be graded based on responses sent via chat that can only be seen by the organizer.

Demonstrations can be used to increase interactivity during the lesson. At this time, the organizing teacher presents the screen image of his computer or a certain part of the screen image to the other participants by selecting the screen mode, and the sequence of all the operations performed by him is shown. If it is

desired not to present the image of the computer screen from the point of view of information security, only the possibility of displaying the opened program windows is used.

At this time, by selecting any of those windows, presentation, text, spreadsheet, video, image, etc. can be demonstrated. For this purpose, the files to be used can be prepared for display by opening the windows in advance.

Having the possibility to take various notes on the presented screenshots or demonstrations during the course of the lesson helps to better understand the lectures and exercises. If the organizer activates it, conference participants can draw attention to the necessary issues by taking advantage of the possibility of taking notes.

Free versions of the Zoom program are more popular, and group lessons cannot last more than 40 minutes, while there is no time limit for conducting private lessons through this program, which is offered for free. After the conference period ends, you can re-enter the conference to continue the lesson as needed.

The Zoom platform can be used on various operating systems. One of the advantages of using the program is that the lesson can be audio, video, etc. writing files to a special folder. This allows you to refer to those lessons later when needed. It is recommended to visit the official website of the company — https://zoom.us/ to ensure that the Zoom program is downloaded to the computer [6].

Selection mechanism of online platforms according to the requirements

The main capabilities and features of the Zoom platform are also presented in numerous programs and platforms available for organizing online classes:

- Google Meet — allows conducting online classes using video and audio, screen sharing, chat, hand raising, conference recording, integration with Google tools;
- Cisco Webex — video and audio conferencing, screen sharing, chat, survey, lesson recording, etc. is an online training platform with capabilities;
- Moodle is a training management platform with the ability to create online courses, host materials, organize discussion forums, create assignments and tests, record student activity, and more;
- Adobe Connect — allows you to conduct online classes using video, audio, screen sharing, chat, polls and more.

Eur. Chem. Bull. **2023**,*12(5), 4997-5000*

4999

- Microsoft Teams platform — has the capabilities of video conference, screen sharing, chat, file sharing, creation and sharing of research materials, integration with Microsoft tools;
- Blackboard is a learning management platform with the ability to create online courses, communicate with students through forums and chats, submit assignments and tests, track student activity, and more;
- and so on.

Online platforms provided to users must be implemented appropriately.

The widely used Zoom platform is actually not a perfect choice for teaching organization and management. It is very important to choose one or another online platform for any lesson or event depending on the requirements. Experience and analysis allow us to say that

- if videoconferences and online meetings are to be organized, Zoom, Skype can be used as an online platform, in which case it is appropriate to use Zoom if a large number of participants are planned, and Skype if a small group of participants is planned;
- if free meetings are intended, Skype is a good choice;
- programs such as Talky can be used if a small number of participants is intended, free and convenient connection is needed;
- Programs such as Moodle, Microsoft Teams, Blackboard can be used for more effective management of the educational process in higher education institutions
- and so on.

It should be noted that with the intensive development of information technologies, new online platforms are emerging. In this regard, the platforms discussed above do not cover existing platforms.

Thus, the organization of online relations, including education, allows a successful choice based on a comparative analysis of online platforms.

The Result

Thus, the characteristics of various online platforms were investigated and the selection procedure was determined depending on the requirements, in order to determine an efficient platform depending on the requirements for conducting online events, including classes.

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Eur. Chem. Bull. **2023**,*12(5), 4997-5000*

5000