

DILEMMA! A game of ethics and chance

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ABSTRACT

As tutors we are continually striving to improve our teaching practice. Students learn better when a variety of delivery modes are offered. Research (1) shows that Games Based Learning is effective because it:

- Motivates students to learn
- Immerses them in the material so they learn more effectively
- Encourages them to learn from their mistakes

Traditionally ethics has been seen as a difficult subject to teach because it covers such a wide range of topics about which some students (and tutors!) may have strong views.

This poster describes the initial steps in the development of a game to assist with the teaching of ET600 Ethics and Professionalism. The game will provide a vehicle to assist with the learning outcomes:

- To demonstrate an understanding of the importance of ethical behaviour
- To demonstrate an ability to formulate ethically sound decisions.

METHOD

We considered basing it on the traditional Monopoly board game – there are a large number of variations available on the Internet (from Board Game Central) including:

- Disney Monopoly, Monopoly - Lord of the Rings Trilogy Edition, Monopoly for Palm-OS, Monopoly Casino Vegas, Maky-Your-Own-Opoly

Snakes and ladders was a possibility but because we were looking to incorporate a wide

range of ethical dilemmas, it was considered too restrictive.

We looked at online quiz sites which were fun to use. However for this initial development we decided to stay offline.

Still to be decided ...

" I have a paper due in history tomorrow, and I just started to research it. I found a web site that has a lot of term papers ALREADY WRITTEN. They are grouped by subject matter and age group (middle school, high school, college, or graduate school). There's a paper there on my topic. All I have to do to get a copy is trade a copy of any other paper that I did for school. That would be a lot easier than researching and writing this entire paper in one night."

" My friend Joey and I wanted to buy this really cool computer game, but it cost a lot of money. Then Joey found a web site where you could get this game FOR FREE just by trading a copy of any other game that you had. But I've heard that copying games for free without the permission of the company who makes them is illegal."

" I got a copy of a really funny computer 'joke' from my friend. It asks you if you want Internet Access for FREE? When you say 'yes,' it changes some files on your computer so that each time you log on, your computer says ' Way to go, DODO'. I think I will send it to my friends as a joke."

REFERENCES

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- Teed, R. (2001). *Starting Point; Game-based learning*. Online. Accessed on 12 May 2005 from: <http://serc.carleton.edu/introgeo/games>

