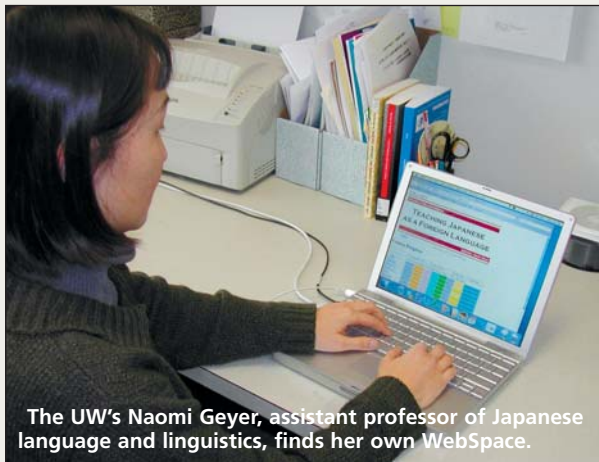


Software-enabled: UW occupies My WebSpace



The UW's Naomi Geyer, assistant professor of Japanese language and linguistics, finds her own WebSpace.

Since 1990, more than 100 new Wisconsin companies have originated from University of Wisconsin innovations. It's the long-established Town & Gown tradition, but now there is one case where the UW's inventive nature is benefiting the university community even more than Greater Madison and Wisconsin.

And the UW has software technology to thank for it.

The UW's Division of Information Technology (DoIT) has developed a Web-accessible file-storage system called "My WebSpace" to help students pre-

pare for the workplace of the 21st Century, and in part to help them function better as students. Powered by Xythos' content-management software, My WebSpace is designed to improve productivity and file management among the UW's 41,000 students and its 17,830-member campus faculty and staff.

More than two years ago, DoIT identified the need for a campus-wide Web hosting service, and as part of that service, the university wanted to give students the ability to share documents and files with restricted groups of fellow students, to effectively manage records, and to collaborate with one another. Every classroom in the university already was served by one or more voice and data outlets with multicast capability for streaming media, but the new Web file-storage system provides 100 megabytes of disk space that allows users to store private files, publish a Web page, and store copies of important documents (homework, notes, research papers, theses, dissertations, and graphics).

Just DoIT

UW students, who have been accessing My WebSpace since arriving on campus last fall, have used it to share files or folders with an individual or group, post their own resumes or portfolios, monitor lab or classwork (including collaborative assignments), and work with local companies on business projects. "We have students that sort their homework there," said **Cathy Riley**, a technical consultant with DoIT. "As they move from the lab to the dorm to the home, they can continue to access their files and work on them."

For faculty, My WebSpace is useful in research and working collaboratively with people on or off campus. UW teaching assistants (TAs) have posted class assignments on the system, and the TAs' own professors now insist that they use it to perfect their own craft. **Lisa Jansen**, an instructional technology specialist with the UW College of Letters and Science, said the university's French and Italian faculty require TAs to have coursework on Web pages. "They believe that it's part of a TA's development to have Web skills, and those are skills employers are looking for," Jansen said.

Naomi Geyer, an assistant professor of Japanese language and linguistics, uses My Web Space in her teaching methodology course because it is becoming increasingly important to incorporate information technology components into any teacher-education program. She believes that a hands-on experience to create their own Webpage is the best way to learn. In this case, the "e-portfolio" is based on a template so that students don't have to spend too much time on each step.

Geyer's students use their e-portfolios to develop their teaching philosophies and to post videotape of themselves teaching an actual class. The purpose of the videotapes is not to impress prospective employers, but for other TAs in the teaching methodology class to review and provide feedback with respect to teaching performance. "They [students] can apply the technology they learned to create their own class Website," Geyer noted, "and to conduct a performance-based assessment and to create Web-based teaching material." ■

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