TerpSys
Technology Driven. People Oriented.

Success Story: Bioinformatics Training Initiative

Summary:

Working with an inter-disciplinary team of the client's bioinformatics and clinical experts, TerpSys developed a formal, client-wide training program for bioinformatics applications.

Client: National Cancer Institute Center for Bioinformatics (NCICB)

The client, a division of a federal medical research agency, employs bioinformatics and IT to disseminate Open Source and standards-based applications for worldwide cancer research.

Objectives:

- Assemble an in-house bioinformatics training team of client-employed experts
- Create a formal, standardized bioinformatics training development process
- Design and offer bioinformatics training courses for key client personnel
- Provide scheduled online training sessions for the cancer research community

Challenge

With its many existing specialized applications, and faced with the prospect of rapid future growth in application development, the client recognized its need for a formal in-house training program specifically geared to the use of bioinformatics applications.

This initiative required an inter-disciplinary team of experienced, knowledgeable client personnel representative of its diverse user community, with backgrounds in fields such as clinical medicine, biotechnology and computer science. This team was to help identify key processes and standards for the development and delivery of bioinformatics training courses.

NCICB looked to TerpSys to assemble and chair the team, and to develop needed training application features and functions based on their deliberations. TerpSys was also charged with developing individual training courses for all applications in the client's inventory, and providing online training to the user community.

Solution

Working with the client, TerpSys organized and led a team of client personnel with nursing, IT and bioinformatics backgrounds Quickly establishing an infrastructure to support training requirements for existing and future applications, the TerpSys-led team created a formalized set of training development processes, training plans, and forms. Project plans, audience analysis forms, training material templates, and evaluations were also used in the development process.

The results were carefully reviewed for accuracy, completeness, practicality and user-friendliness. Once these items were confirmed, TerpSys developed and delivered a full range of scheduled online training courses based on them. Value added training initiative features supplied by TerpSys included e-scheduling and tracking of courses and trainees, as well as the formation of application-specific "working groups" and auto-prompts to keep training materials thoroughly up-to-date.

Results

- Assembled permanent team of experts to lead NCICB's bioinformatics training efforts
- Developed formal process to plan, develop and implement bioinformatics training
- Delivered comprehensive inventory of 10 training programs and 33 individual courses
- Raised awareness client-wide of bioinformatics applications and training opportunities
- Satisfied NCICB's user community, as evidenced by consistent positive feedback

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