



www.DBTechNet.org

# DBTech EXT\*



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

## VLWs: Q&A

**Q.** What is a DBTech EXT virtual laboratory workshop (VLW)?

**A.** *The typical DBTech EXT VLW consists of educational and training (E&T) material on some selected topic/knowledge area in the broader field of Database Technology. Based on the relevant E&T material developed for and taught in live DBTechNet workshops, the VLW content is of a self-study type, including tutorials, laboratory hands-on case-studies, and exercises. In this respect, it serves the primary goal of the DBTechNet initiative, namely to promote learning by doing, utilizing state-of-the-art commercial as well as open source DBMS environments.*

**Q.** Which subject/knowledge areas do the DBTech EXT VLWs cover?

**A.** *Beginning in January 2010, the following VLWs are available:*

- *Concurrency Control and Recovery*
- *Knowledge Discovery from Databases*
- *OLAP and Data Warehousing*
- *XML and Databases*

*next to become available:*

- *Database Access Patterns and Object Relational Mapping*
- *Database Administration and Tuning*
- *Database Modeling and Semantics*
- *Distributed, Replicated, Embedded Databases, and Mobile Databases*

**Q.** Why register for a VLW when most of its educational and training content is freely available via the DBTech portal?

**A.** *Not all of the content of each one VLW is freely accessible in the Internet. In addition to the presentation slides, the texts, and exercises with model answers, registered VLW participants communicate/interact with their instructors, post questions on a common discussion board, and receive assistance from their instructors within 48 hours from question posting time. Last but not least, some VLWs utilize proprietary commercial software which only registered VLW participants have access to.*

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**Q.** If I decide to register, what personal info/data do I have to file with DBTech EXT?

**A.** *Your full name, email address, and the institution/organization you represent.*

**Q.** Who will have access to the personal info/data I file with DBTech?

**A.** *Your personal data will remain strictly with the four DBTech EXT steering committee members, and with your VLW your instructor(s). Fellow VLW participants will know you by name, and email address.*

**Q.** Being an inner-/outer-circle member, can I promote the VLWs to my colleagues and/or students at work, as well as to I.T. contacts I have, outside my immediate working environment?

**A.** *Absolutely, yes! At the DBTech EXT general meeting held in Thessaloniki in September 2009, it was decided that each one inner-/outer-circle partner is expected to promote the project and its VLWs to at least three (3) new contacts, each month. This DBTech EXT promotion/dissemination activity need be reported via the corresponding DBTech EXT Google Docs form.*

**Q.** How much does it cost to enroll in one VLW for a three-month period?

**A.** *VLW participation is free of charge.*

**Q.** What is/are the underlying commitment/s I make when I register to participate in one or more VLWs?

**A.** *None, except from filing in a questionnaire and evaluation report upon completion of the VLW.*

**Q.** Is there a limitation to the number of VLW participants who enroll in each VLW for a given 3-month period?

**A.** *Some VLWs do set a maximum number of participants in the 3-month period. This is for retaining the set (high) standards for educational and training support. Also, this limitation often relates to computing resources. For example, the KDD VLW operates with a maximum of fifteen (15) participants each period, and this relates to the utilization of the University of Malaga PCVirtual infrastructure in order to obtain access to IBM's DB2 Data Warehouse Edition environment.*

**Q.** Am I to be tested on the knowledge/skills I acquire in each one VLW I participate in?

**A.** *At this point in time, this is purely voluntary. The VLWs include report writing and testing material which the participants are free to make use of and be assessed on.*

**Q.** Am I to obtain a certificate of enrollment/participation, upon successful completion of the VLW(s)?

**A.** *Currently, this is under the discretion of the VLW instructors.*

**Q.** What if I wish to utilize the VLW in the course(s) I teach? Can I act as teacher/trainer of the DBTech VLW(s) in my working environment?

**A.** *Absolutely, yes! One of the key activities in DBTech EXT is to encourage, and promote the establishment of a network of teachers/trainers who utilize the the VLWs content in their classes and/or training seminars.*

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