

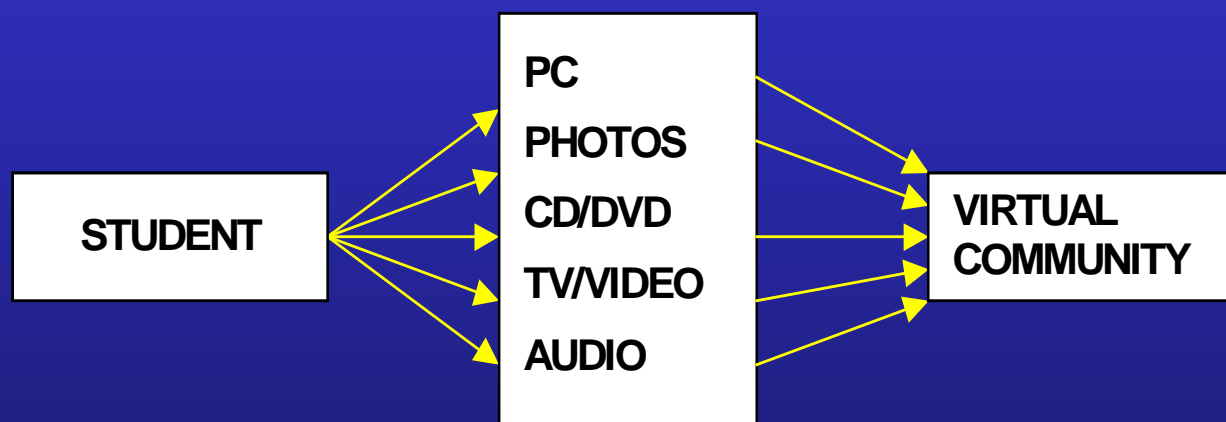


# Virtual Communities in Teaching of English Language

**Krunoslav Mikulan**  
*Teachers' School of  
Professional Higher  
Education in Čakovec*



# New technologies in the teaching process



Minimal interactivity → Maximal interactivity

*All multimedia aids previously used by English teachers are combined in the creation of a virtual community.*



# Large variety of virtual communities

THE REPUBLIC OF MARS

The first human colony on Mars was founded on 16th November 2020 (Earth Calendar).

Marsgov was founded shortly thereafter, proclaiming the planet and its two moons, Phobos and Deimos, as a constitutional democratic republic.

This micronation welcomes immigrants from Earth.

Home General Citizens Science Government The Red Centre Discussion Immigration



# English and Information Technology

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- English - the predominant Internet language
- Appropriate for English language lessons
- Prerequisite: Previously well organized Information Technology classes



# Stages in the creation of a virtual community

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1. Choosing the topic and content
2. Finding the provider (homesteading site)
3. Applying for web space
4. Creating the frame
5. Incorporation of various services and tools
6. Uploading process
7. Community maintenance



# Stages in the creation of a virtual community

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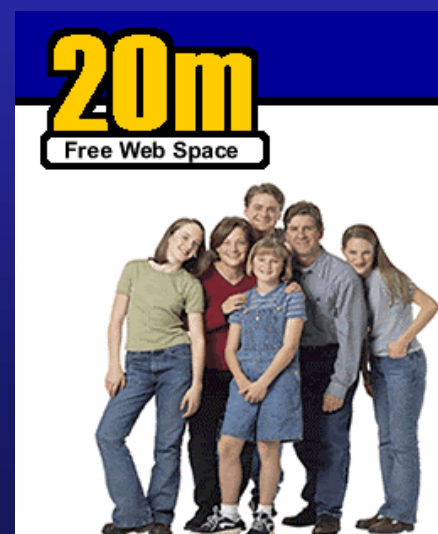
## 1. Choosing the topic and content

- **Groupwork**
- **Brainstorming**
- **Idea presentation**
- **Compromise**



# Stages in the creation of a virtual community

## 2. Finding the provider (homesteading site)





# Stages in the creation of a virtual community

## 3. Applying for space

- Filling in forms
- Making proper choices

### 1. Choose Your Web Site URL and Password

http://www.angelfire.com/  /

↓  
This will be your Angelfire name.

**Example URL:** http://www.angelfire.com/boyband/j\_timberlake

**Example Angelfire name:** boyband/j\_timberlake

Password:

Repeat Password:

### 2. Personalize Your Experience

Title:

First Name:

Last Name:

Street Address:

City:

State:  (USA)

State/Province:  (Not USA)

Zip/Postal Code:

Country:

Birthdate:

Email Address:





# Stages in the creation of a virtual community

## 4. Creating the frame

- Pupils/students decide on the organization of their community
- Everybody gets the opportunity to go through the entire process



Microsoft®  
**FrontPage®**  
2000  
MICROSOFT OFFICE





# Stages in the creation of a virtual community

## 5. Incorporation of services

- message boards

- discussion forums

- chat

- guest books

- instant messaging

- Internet radio station

- ...





# Stages in the creation of a virtual community

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## 6. Uploading process

- Students go through the instructions and upload the pages





# Stages in the creation of a virtual community

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## 7. Community maintenance

- Other classes and schools are invited to participate
- Administrators and moderators are appointed
- New content is constantly added
- Pupils are rotated in their duties
- The official community language is English



# The teacher's role

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- **Direction**
- **Support**
- **Suggestions**
- **Advice**



# Practical use of a virtual community

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- Discussion
- School problems
- Homework
- Textbooks
- Advice
- Interaction
- Language practise



# Communication pupil/student ↔ teacher

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- **Communication is greatly improved**
- **Cooperation**
- **Exchange of knowledge and experience**
- **Avoiding of embarrassment**



# The four skills

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- **Speaking**
- **Writing**
- **Listening**
- **Reading**

**All the skills are activated and practised.**





# The problems

- **Equipment**
- **Fear**
- **Lack of training**
- **Misconceptions**



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