

A brief note on the JeLSIM Partnership

The JeLSIM partnership is different from other eLearning companies:

- **We specialise in the production of online interactive content.**
We make a distinction between active content such as animation and video which take the learner through pre-set scenarios and the exploratory experience of interactive content which provides learners with feedback on their actions. This approach encourages the learner to explore and to learn by doing and by making mistakes. It is easy to make page-turning courseware and there are many companies that specialise in doing so. We don't.
- **We believe in teacher-centred design.**
We believe teachers are a crucial component in education, whether it is in the classroom, face to face or online. Teachers are the curriculum experts with experience of students and their problems and difficulties. Attempts to design online material without their input will fail. Our tools and methodology empower the teacher allowing them to input more than just content to the design process.
- **Our team are all “hands on” experts.**
The three partners are specialists in eLearning, simulations and programming. Together we have over 35 years experience in computer-based and e-Learning. We've been managers in larger organisations but we enjoy using our experience first hand to take on new challenges and provide innovative solutions. We are a small partnership, so this means you deal directly with the partners, not with salespersons or inexperienced personnel.
- **We build project teams to work with the customer.** In assembling a project team we consider the needs of the customer, providing the members of the team they do not have the resources to provide. As well as the core partnership, we work with “associate members”, colleagues and organisations with whom we have worked in the past. Our associate members include a wide range of subject experts, and software and media specialists.
- **As a result ...** Our structure means that we can provide flexible solutions to a customer's problem. We are not tied into one solution. As a small organisation, we have low overheads and can offer competitive quotes.
- **More information** Can be found on our web site <http://www.jelsim.org/>
We can be contacted via email on contact@jelsim.org



Background

The JeLSIM partnership was formed in August 2002 by three ex-employees of MultiVerse Solutions. MultiVerse Solutions went into receivership in June of 2002 and the JeLSIM partners purchased the assets of the company including the IPR of the innovative eSim Builder toolset which can be used to rapidly create highly interactive online simulations. Our clients include, the Scottish Qualifications Agency, the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate, Glasgow Caledonian University, NHS Health Scotland and Heriot-Watt University.

The three partners have almost 40 years combined experience in using computers in education. Brief biographies are given below:

Dr Bill Austin has been developing computer software since 1986 in both commercial and academic settings and has used Java and its related technologies since joining the MultiVerse project in 1996. The MultiVerse project developed Java tools for the rapid production of educational simulations. Bill was the MultiVerse software architect and became Technical Director when a spinout company was formed in 1998. As Technical Director he recruited and led a team of seven developers and extended the core architecture to support model building and collaborative access. Bill took a hands-on approach to development and ensured that his team used the latest software development methods. Before joining the MultiVerse project his research interests were in algorithms and architectures for parallel and distributed computer vision systems.

Dr Colin Milligan has been involved in the design, authoring and delivery of online learning materials since 1994. Colin started work at MEDC, as part of a team creating materials for use by the University of Paisley in their distance learning initiative. In 1996 he moved to Heriot-Watt University, to work with TALiSMAN where he specialised in creating and delivering on-line courses in learning technology to HE staff across Scotland. After TALiSMAN, Colin worked on various HE and European funded projects investigating the evolving pedagogy of online learning., producing two widely read JTAP reports on Virtual Learning Environments, joint authoring of a course (Learning About Open Learning) for delivery to 400 staff across Eastern Europe, and the delivery of a 5-day workshop to staff at the Universiti Teknologi Petronas. At Heriot-Watt, Colin also worked on the SHEFC funded INSIDE project with MultiVerse. In 2001, Colin joined MultiVerse full time where he was responsible for creating simulation content and monitoring the learning technology market for developments such as the emergence of standards. In JeLSIM, Colin provides eLearning consultancy and educational expertise.

Dr Ruth Thomas has been working in the field of computer-based teaching and learning since 1984. Her early background and research interests in science and engineering have led to a particular interest in improving education at all levels in these subjects. The focus of her work has been the development of innovative solutions for use of computer simulations in education and training. Working initially as a programmer of bespoke simulations, she moved into educational research, working towards a vision of making computer simulations a commonplace tool in education and training. She devised and managed the multi-university project, INTERACT which produced simulations of engineering systems and tools to integrate them into multimedia web-based environments. This led into the MultiVerse project which focussed on the production of Java tools for the rapid production of educational simulations. She managed this university project and in 1998 became Support Engineering Director of MultiVerse Solutions, when the project span out of the Institute for Computer-Based Learning at Heriot-Watt University. Using the MultiVerse tools she has worked with many subject experts, teachers and trainers developing simulation-centred learning material. She is continuing to work with the MultiVerse technology and simulations as a member of the JeLSIM partnership.