

Mechanics online

Geoff I Swan, Physics Program, Edith Cowan University

Postal Address: Physics Program, School of Engineering and Mathematics, Edith Cowan University, 100 Joondalup Drive, Joondalup WA 6027

Phone: 6304 5447

Fax: 6304 5811

Email: g.swan@ecu.edu.au

Author Biogragphy:

Geoff has been teaching physics to engineering, aviation, science, and education students at Edith Cowan University since 1994. He has also taught physics, general science and mathematics in Victorian secondary schools. Geoff undertakes research in physics education and is particularly interested in the use of modern technology as it relates to the learning process.

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Mechanics quizzes were created using WebCT and integrated into a first year physics unit at Edith Cowan University in semester 1, 2003. The online environment allowed students to attempt the quiz from home or university and to receive immediate detailed feedback upon submission. Students were able to act on this feedback for a second attempt with a modified version of the quiz.

Students who attempted the quizzes overwhelmingly believed that they were easy to access, relevant to the unit content, improved their understanding of physics and helped them develop problem solving skills. However, the participation rates were disappointing with almost one quarter of all students not attempting any quizzes. These students achieved poor overall grades in the unit.