Presenting *BBCwin*

What is *BBCwin*?

BBC World **I**nteractive **N**ews is an English language learning programme made up of carefully selected news reports from BBC World. A new programme is created every two weeks. It is the most up-to-date, user-friendly way to improve English learning and teaching.
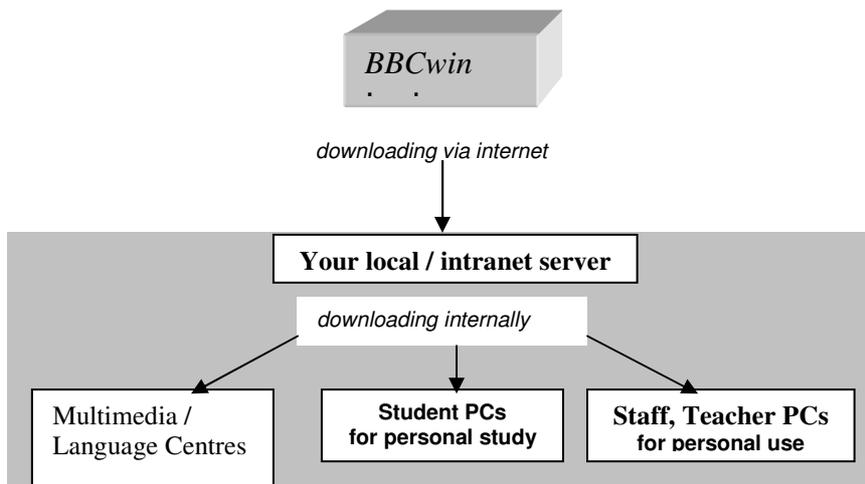
Each programme contains four reports drawn from a wide variety of subjects: politics, economics, science, health, society, arts and cinema. Each report is presented in a number of steps making the language easily accessible to the student.

1. How to use *BBCwin*

1.1. Technical Aspect

BBCwin is downloaded from the server in London every two weeks. It is stored on an institution's own intranet server until it is replaced by the new programme.[1] The students and staff can then download the programme at any time to their own computers for individual study or to the multimedia centre for group work.

This kind of distribution has so far proven reliable and successful with both students and teachers alike–staff themselves also consult the programmes to maintain their English.

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[1] The programme is at the École Centrale de Nantes for now, and will be migrating to its permanent home at the University of Toulouse 1 within a few weeks. The current address is <http://www.ec-nantes.fr/bbc/>.

1.2. Pedagogical Aspect

Class preparation: the teacher indicates which report is to be prepared before a class, students download it and then come to class with knowledge of the topic and the associated vocabulary. They are ready to discuss, debate and comment as soon as they step into the classroom.

There are numerous other possibilities. Much has been deliberately left to the creativity of the teacher, to adapt to his/her teaching style and approach to the topic and the language. A transcript of the programme is sent directly to teachers on the day of each new programme, thus providing a solid start to the teacher's work. Extra written exercises have also been added for onward distribution electronically or in print.

2. How much does it cost?

The programme is provided free to educational establishments. The costs of running the programme are covered partly through licensing of the programme to the private sector, and partly through the recourse to sponsorship. This translates into a corporate partner's logo in a corner of the screen, which in turn allows for the programme to be permanently available–free and without payment –to the educational sector.

Establishments using *BBCwin* will also be asked to answer a short feedback form twice yearly.

3. Using *BBCwin*

Here are some important practical details on the day to day management of BBCwin.

3.1. Downloading

The accepted procedure is that a University downloads *BBCwin* onto its own server using the password provided, and then distributes it internally from there. This specific password is not to be distributed to individual students.

The programmes are downloaded once per edition and then made available within each institution via the intranet or local network and/or in the multimedia centres. The *BBCwin* programmes should only be available within a closed intranet system, and must not be publicly available on an institution's internet web site.
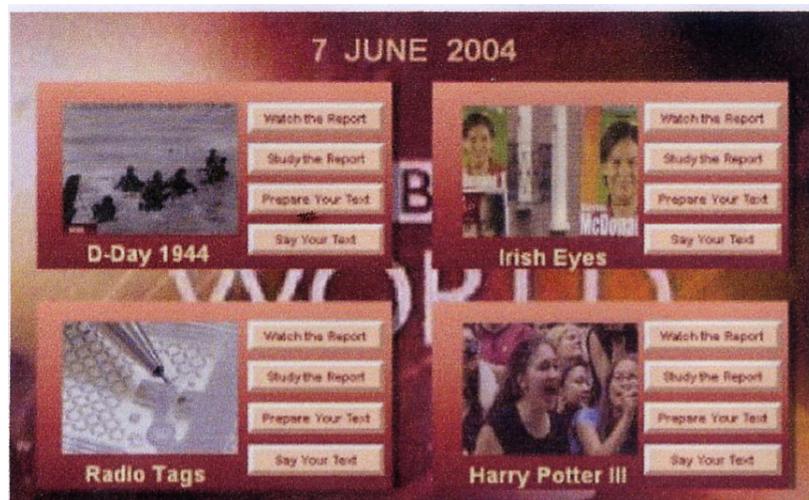
3.2. Archiving

BBCwin is published every two weeks. The user licence does not allow for the programmes to be archived and kept by users beyond this period. Establishments are thus required to erase the previous edition when a new one is downloaded.

4. How to proceed?

Establishments wishing to use *BBCwin* should contact our distribution department. New users will be provided with a licence agreement and the

necessary password. An individual password is issued to each establishment, and is renewed on a yearly basis (from September to the following July).

Thomas Dickinson*

Stories From BBC World