Welcome to the Real World – RAD in the Classroom

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How do you provide students with real world experience in Rapid Application Development (RAD) in a classroom environment when at the same time they are far from ready to enter the real world? This poster discusses how the author attempted to mimic the real world in the classroom for D210-Rapid Application Development, a second year paper offered in the Bachelor of Information and Communications Technology.

The focus of D210 is to enable students to follow the Rapid Application Development methodology using the associated tools and methods to develop an application specific to a clients needs. Focus is placed on the Joint Application Development (JAD) methodology to perform user needs analysis. The challenge of this paper is to ensure that students are able to view and experience the benefits of these methodologies while delivering the content in a classroom environment.

In order to answer this challenge, students were required to role play for given scenarios. To make this activity as realistic as possible, the author created an extensive Joint Application Development kit, a choice of scenarios and a wide variety of business resources related to the task at hand.

Students then enacted a formal JAD session in which each student played a role based on the methodology. This methodology was also utilised for students to glean information from their user (the author) for their final assessment on which they were marked for the appropriateness of their solution and ability to conform to the methodologies introduced within the unit.