

Tech Tip of the month (by Geraldine Blattner & Stephanie Roulon)

Setting up chat groups on 2 portals : Angel & Blackboard

Theoretical background:

Nowadays, chatting is an established way to communicate among friends, family and even strangers. Our students are no exception, and use this tool on a regular basis to interact with their acquaintances. Integrating such an activity in a language classroom has various positive aspects. Research has showed that by using such a tool, classroom discussions are enhanced in several ways. First of all, the typical pattern of in class discussion is changed and allows more equal participation and more overall production by each of the participant (Warschauer, 1996, Mock, 2002). Often, a feeling of camaraderie develops among the student contributors, which appears to motivate them into an active and constructive involvement (Kern, 1995).

Getting ready:

Before chatting it is essential to:

- Brainstorm with your students on the topic that will be discussed in the chat room
- Make clear to the students what is the goal of the chat activity

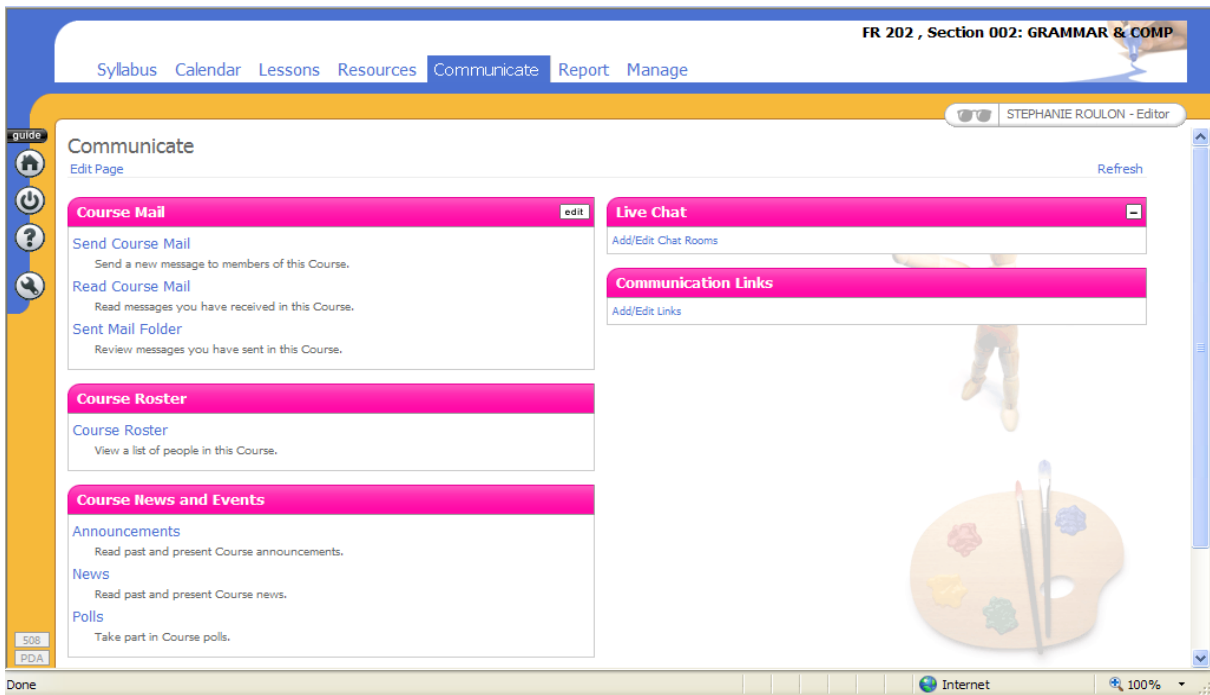
Setting up chats for the class:

Angel:

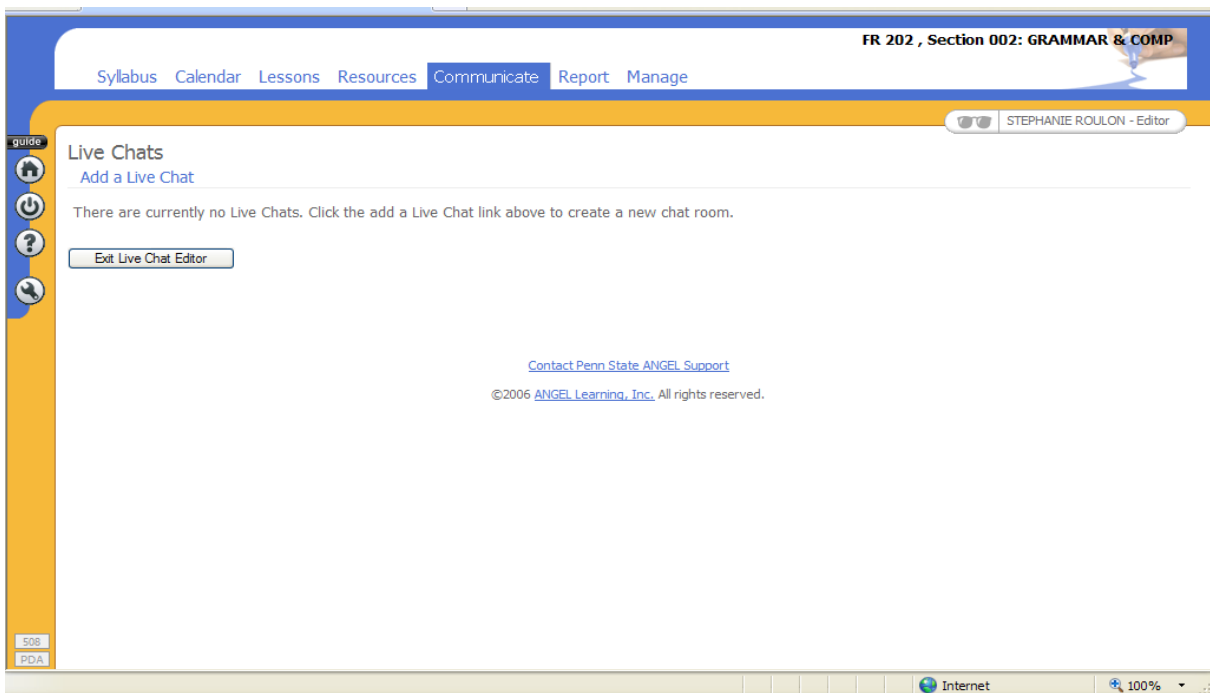
Step 1: log on

Step 2: select the course for which you want to create a chat

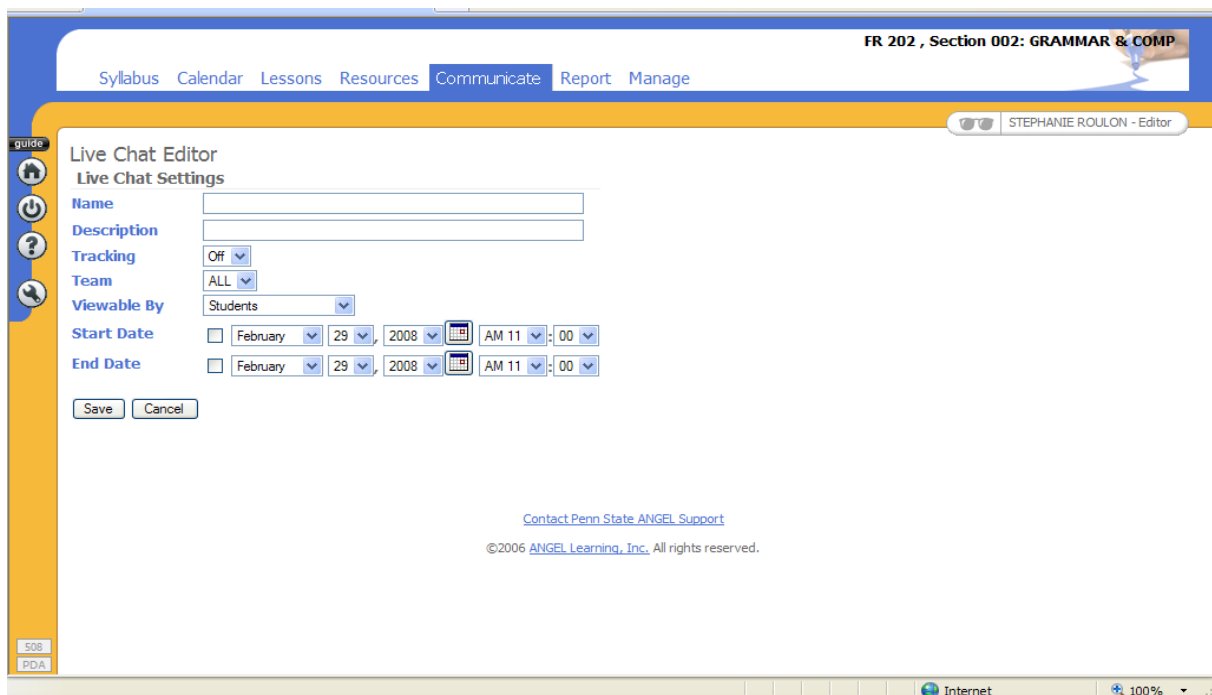
Step3: Go to "communicate"



Step 4: Click on “add/edit chat rooms”



Step 5: Add a name for your chat(s)



Step 6: Click “save”

Step 7: You can create as many chat rooms as you wish and assign students to go to a specific chat

You are ready, you simply need to tell your students to click on the chat name that you have create and they can start interacting with their classmates








Make sure to show the students how to get to the chat room before the exercise

The script of the chat can be easily access after the exercise by following the same steps. You can use it for several purposes of your choice (i.e.: analyzing the most prominent types of errors that were committed by your students...)

Blackboard:

Step 1: On the Course page, click on **CONTROL PANEL**

Step 2: Select **Collaboration**

-  [Announcements](#)
-  [Collaboration](#)
-  [Discussion Board](#)
-  [Group Pages](#)
-  [Messages](#)
-  [Roster](#)
-  [Send Email](#)



Step 3: Click the Manage button on the right hand side and name the chat

Step 4: Click the **Join** button next to a Chat session. The default session provided with your course is called "Office Hours".

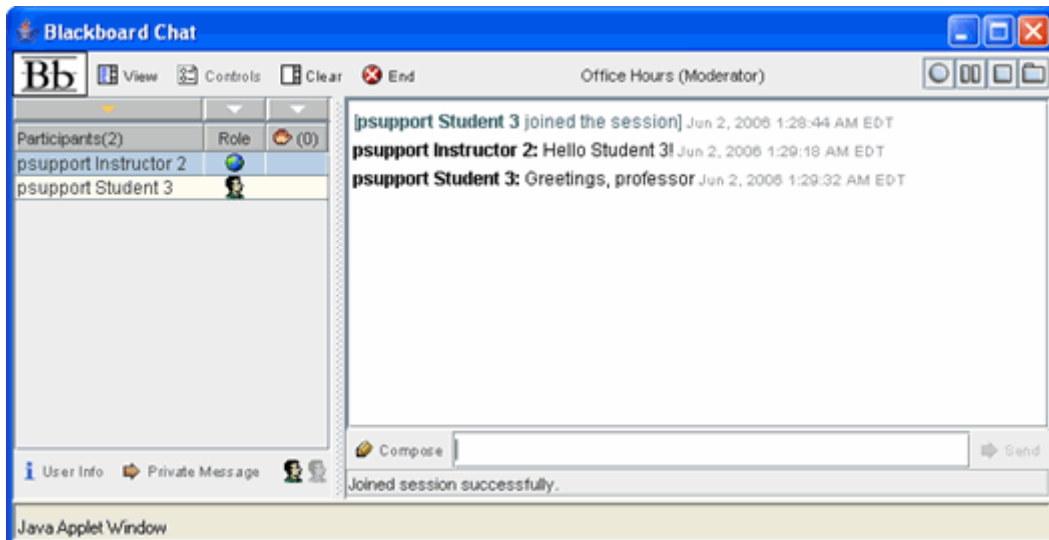
COURSES > PRESIDILUM COURSE > COMMUNICATIONS > COLLABORATION

Collaboration Sessions

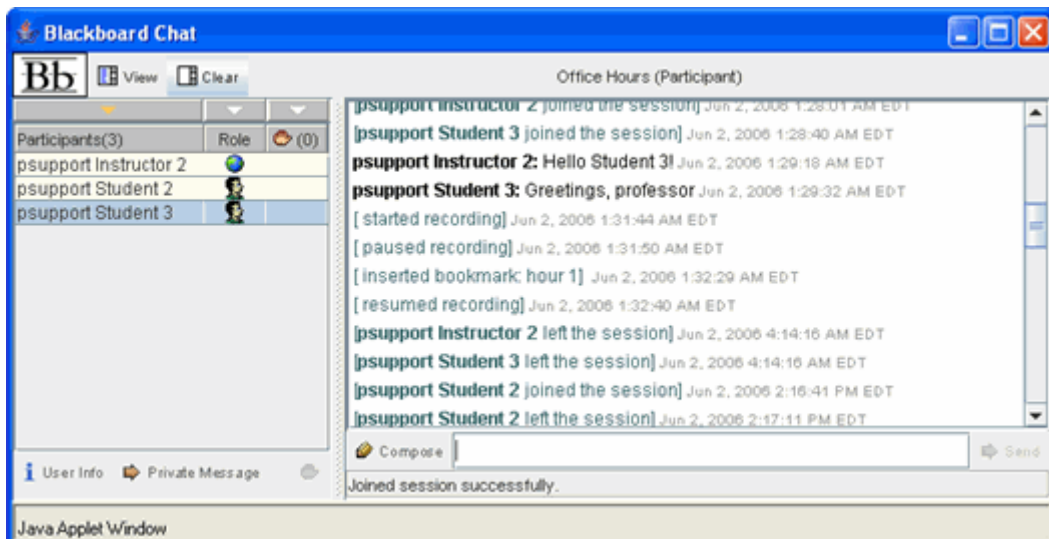
Filter: Search by: Session Name Start Date End Date (MM/DD/YY)

Session Name	Tool	Start Date	End Date	
 Lecture Hall	Virtual Classroom			<input type="button" value="Join"/>
 Office Hours	Chat			<input type="button" value="Join"/> <input type="button" value="Recordings"/>

Assuming your computer has met all the technical requirements for using Chat, a window similar to the following one pops up:



Students:



There are many creative ways to exploit such a tool and make your classes fun, Essayez, vous ne serez pas déçu!