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## **APPLICATION OF DISTANCE LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES IN TRAINING OF IT SPECIALISTS**

Information technologies are already common words for each of us, because they characterize the life and needs of modern society.

IT methods and instrumentality help to store, process and disseminate a variety of information. The activity of modern human is highly dependent on information systems, so they are constantly evolving, growing and complicated. To work with them, their maintenance and the development of new systems require appropriate specialists, literally more and more every day.

Currently, IT specialists are at the top of the most sought for professions in the world, and the IT industry specialties in Ukraine are in the top 5 by the number of applications submitted. This testifies to the unprecedented popularity of the industry among both employers and educators [3].

Taking into account the abovementioned facts and the rapid development of information technology as a whole, in the future it is not excluded that the influx of entrants to the specialty of the industry may exceed the "capacity" of universities. There are simply not enough teachers, classrooms and equipment to provide everyone with the opportunity to get an education in IT majors. In such cases, distance learning may be helpful.

By definition, distance learning is the interaction between the teacher and students with each other at a distance, reflecting all the components of the educational process (goals, content, methods, organizational forms, learning tools)

and implemented by specific means of Internet technologies or other means that involve interactivity.

Distance education has several advantages over full-time and extramural studies forms. Such benefits include, for example, a much lower cost. This is due to the fact that for such a form of education there is no need to pay for the rent of premises, the cost of trips to an educational establishment, etc.

In view of this, the number of higher education institutions introducing distance learning is increasing year by year, and the number of specialties in this form is increasing. However, the lack of technical, human and financial resources is holding back the development.

The fact that many higher education institutions defiantly ignore the possibility of obtaining education in their specialties in distance learning only because of the complexity of its implementation, because the existence of a platform for distance learning is now a great advantage.

Speaking about the quality of the acquired knowledge, correctly organized distance learning is not inferior to the classical full-time education, and extramural studies. Moreover, it provides a unique opportunity to receive high quality education in rare areas, which are often not presented in many universities.

Compared to the extramural form of study, the distance form offers much greater benefits to people who combine learning and work, because the latter is practically not tied to certain time intervals and gives the opportunity to study only in his spare time [2].

It should also be mentioned about the inhabitants of villages and small towns. To many of them, obtaining the coveted diploma is not only constrained by the difficulty of obtaining it. Higher education institutions are not everywhere, while Internet-based computers have long been an integral part of almost every home.

Distance learning is also a solution for people who are unable to attend educational institutions for certain personal reasons, such as health reasons. In this

way, even those categories of people who, under normal circumstances, would prefer not to receive it at all will be able to receive higher education in the distance form.

It should also be noted that the existence of an organized distance learning process gives educational institutions the opportunity not to interrupt the educational process even in an emergency. Recent events have shown that the moment is very relevant.

The future belongs to distance education. With the right approach and the availability of the necessary technical and information tools, distance learning can become a solid tool, capable of qualitatively training thousands of specialists in a variety of areas and completely replace the classic forms of education.

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