Automated transcription of spoken-word lecture materials
...supporting hyperlinked communities of co-learners

Dr. Marcus Lynch & Philip Phelps
Bristol Institute of Technology, University of the West of England

Further improvements
* Implement dedicated profiles for each staff member. Currently a shared profile is used to reduce staff training time, but at the cost of lower initial accuracy.

* Iteratively reduce the time required for staff to approve transcripts by feeding corrections to errors back into the automated transcription engine.

* Allow corrections made to one segment to affect all others in a particular transcript. In the current system, each segment is a separate entity. This can lead to repeated edits of identical errors across segments.

* Automate more steps and improve user interfaces. For example, uploading data to the Content Management System (CMS) currently involves lengthy human interaction.

* Expand transcription to other speech-based AV materials - such as radio programmes, Youtube videos, podcasts, etc.

Hyperlinked communities of co-learners
Users searching the CMS for keywords see search results as hyperlinks to the paragraph in which their search terms appear. Users are encouraged to collaboratively annotate materials, adding cross-references (both to other materials inside the CMS and to external content) to support learning by other users (students AND staff).

The system uses the open source Content Management System "Sakai" and "ProjectPad" to provide the transcript database separately from the UWE Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), Blackboard. Integration with the university-wide VLE is planned at a later date.