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Top Stories

Mobile Apps Arrive for Courses and *CorrSim* Game

Now, Access Corrosion Apps on the iPad, iPhone, and Via Facebook

By Cynthia Greenwood

If you're looking for an easy way to access Web-based courses on the science of polymers and ceramics, the DoD Corrosion Office may have just the right app for you.



A new DoD course, Corrosion Comprehension: Polymers, is now available as a mobile app at the Apple Store online. Photo courtesy of GSG Systems.

Or, if you need to understand the corrosion control technologies on a cargo seaport or an oil rig, you can download *CorrSimulator*—known as *CorrSim*—on your iPad or iPhone. Or you can access it via Facebook if you prefer.

The new mobile apps—titled *Corrosion Comprehension: Polymers* and *Corrosion Comprehension: Ceramics*—feature acclaimed actor LeVar Burton, and they are the newest online offerings in a five-part tutorial series. Jointly developed by The University of Akron, Bruno White Entertainment, and GSG Systems for DoD's Corrosion Policy and Oversight Office, the courses can be downloaded from the Apple Store for free. From the store, users can also download the *CorrSim* training game free of charge.

"The mobile apps for the courses in polymers and ceramics were designed by GSG Systems to comply with Defense Acquisition University (DAU) requirements," said Daniel J. Dunmire, director of the DoD Corrosion Policy and Oversight Office. "The Corrosion Office has submitted two continuous learning modules to DAU for review and compliance with Web-hosting standards. DAU has been

extremely cooperative, and we hope to have the courses on their site very soon for public access."

The portable apps for both training courses offer a mix of text, tutorials, and videos in order to maximize the potential for interaction. They also offer a final exam to help students gauge their comprehension of material. "The videos are organized into chapter modules, each of which includes quizzes for comprehension evaluation," said Dunmire.

CorrSim, or *CorrSimulator*, is a turn-based game that allows users to build their own facility such as an oil refinery or ship and understand environmental factors that cause corrosion to structures on these facilities, as well as the short- and long-term economic effects of repairing or replacing equipment as a result of corrosion.

Configuring Courses and Games for Portability

Developers at GSG Systems created the corrosion mobile apps after the DoD corrosion community expressed an interest in making its existing training courses more portable during the biennial DoD Corrosion Conference in August 2011.

“In addition to *Polymers*, *Ceramics*, and the *CorrSim* game, our goal is to make all DoD certification and training courses available on the iOS (iPad), Android, and social networking platforms,” said Isabel Manalac, vice president of GSG Systems. “All coursework sponsored by the Corrosion Office and DAU is being developed for each type of mobile application and will eventually be available on Facebook and Google+.”

“The most recent and dynamic version of *CorrSim* is the one available on Facebook, and we’re now revising the version currently available on the iPad,” Manalac said.

The dominant players in the social networking landscape are Facebook and Google+, Manalac said. “Between the two of them, they have 98 to 99 percent of the market. If a new one comes into play that is significant, we’ll look into adapting DoD courseware for it as well, with the goal of casting as wide a net as possible.

Using Social Networking to Build A Community of Users

The DoD corrosion community began working with GSG Systems three years ago to foster a community of corrosion practitioners. Only now has technology caught up to allow collaboration by way of social networking.

“The Corrosion Office courses are significantly more powerful on these social networks than if they were to just hang passively on traditional stand-alone Web sites,” Manalac said. “Social networking allows you to communicate with corrosion practitioners instantly. On Facebook, for example, you can post a question on a wall, it will go out to the world, and it can be answered quickly by an expert or someone with an interest similar to your own.”

Manalac’s team began marketing *CorrSim* on Facebook during the last week of December 2011. In just 10 days, they attracted 1,300 users who downloaded the game.

“Such is the power of social networking—the uptake is so much faster than it is on a stand-alone Web site,” said Manalac.

DAU Accreditation is Paramount

While mobile, social networking, and Web applications are powerful outreach tools, the DoD Corrosion Office’s principal aim is to support the DAU platform so that corrosion practitioners who take courses through any online platform can receive DAU accreditation. “The DoD courseware we’ve developed so far is configured for the [CorrConnect Web site](#), but we know we will have hit a home run when these courses can be accessed through the DAU Web site,” said Manalac.



CorrSim, an instructional game about corrosion technologies on facilities, can be downloaded on your iPad or iPhone, or accessed via Facebook. Photo courtesy of GSG Systems.



Users can download DoD's new course on the science of ceramics onto their iPhone or iPad. Photo courtesy of GSG Systems.

ground vehicles. Most of these courses have migrated to the portal known as CorrConnect.org, which is developed and maintained by GSG Systems.

To access the Corrosion Office library of corrosion-related courses and tutorials, visit www.corrconnect.org or <https://www.corrdefense.org/ReferenceLibrary.aspx>.

DAU is reviewing all courses currently available on the *CorrConnect* Web site to ensure that they comply with their own system requirements, as well as SCORM (Sharable Content Object Reference Model) standards and specifications for Web-based learning.

GSG Systems plans to retrofit all DoD corrosion courses that are now available on CorrConnect.org and CorrDefense.org for mobile applications and social networking sites. These include the DAU-accredited Corrosion Learning Module (CLM) 038 *Corrosion Prevention and Control Overview*. In addition, all courses housed at CorrConnect.org will be retrofitted to be DAU-compliant, including *Cathodic Protection (CP) 01 Inspect and Protect*, *Cathodic Protection (CP) 02 Instruct and Protect*, and *Coatings 1*.

Since 2005 the DoD Corrosion Office has partnered with DAU to provide numerous online training courses for scientists and technicians who acquire and maintain military aircraft, ships, and