duolingo

for the Language Classroom

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Overview

- Background
  - intersection of Kirkwood's mission and Duolingo's features
- Lab
  - Duolingo
  - Duolingo for Schools

Community needs

- consistent practice
- exposure outside class

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Consistent, meaningful practice

- earn rewards for streaks
- student activity reports
- assignments

Accessibility and quality

- cost
- availability
- requirements

Wide access

- no cost for the software or content (not even ads)
- smartphone, tablet, computer
- computer lab, language lab
- WiFi, 3G, LAN
- 24/7/365 access
- microphone recommended, not required

Lifelong learning

- motivation
- use after the semester

Motivation

- gamified learning
- compete with friends
- in-game rewards

Quality, individual instruction

- discussion forums
  - software-specific support
  - language questions
  - cultural questions
- go at their own pace
- document translation
- grammar/pronunciation explanations

Duolingo

http://www.duolingo.com

- site vs. target language
- organization of lessons
- strength bars, XP, lingots
- discussion
  - general, and item-specific
- immersion
  - useful for advanced or ambitious students
- placement test

Duolingo for Schools

http://schools.duolingo.com

- creating a classroom
  - site/target pairs
- inviting students
- assignments
- activity reports
- curriculum browser
- class activities

Managing student accounts

- Let them manage it themselves
  - depending on their comfortability, best option
- Create accounts and passwords for them
  - more work for teacher up front, but simpler delivery to students
  - easier to hand over access at end of semester
  - no automated way to do this (yet?)

Challenges

- Explaining the Arabic/French/etc. interface to students
  - student helpers
  - consistent design across languages
- Not all site languages are supported
  - The lone Ethiopian (Amharic-speaking) student
- Helping students type in non-Latin alphabets
  - Many online keyboards have ads
  - Windows keyboard layouts are hard to use
  - Google Input Tools is a great alternative
    - http://www.google.com/inputtools/