
Elgg :: the social ePortfolio

Creating your own digital identity



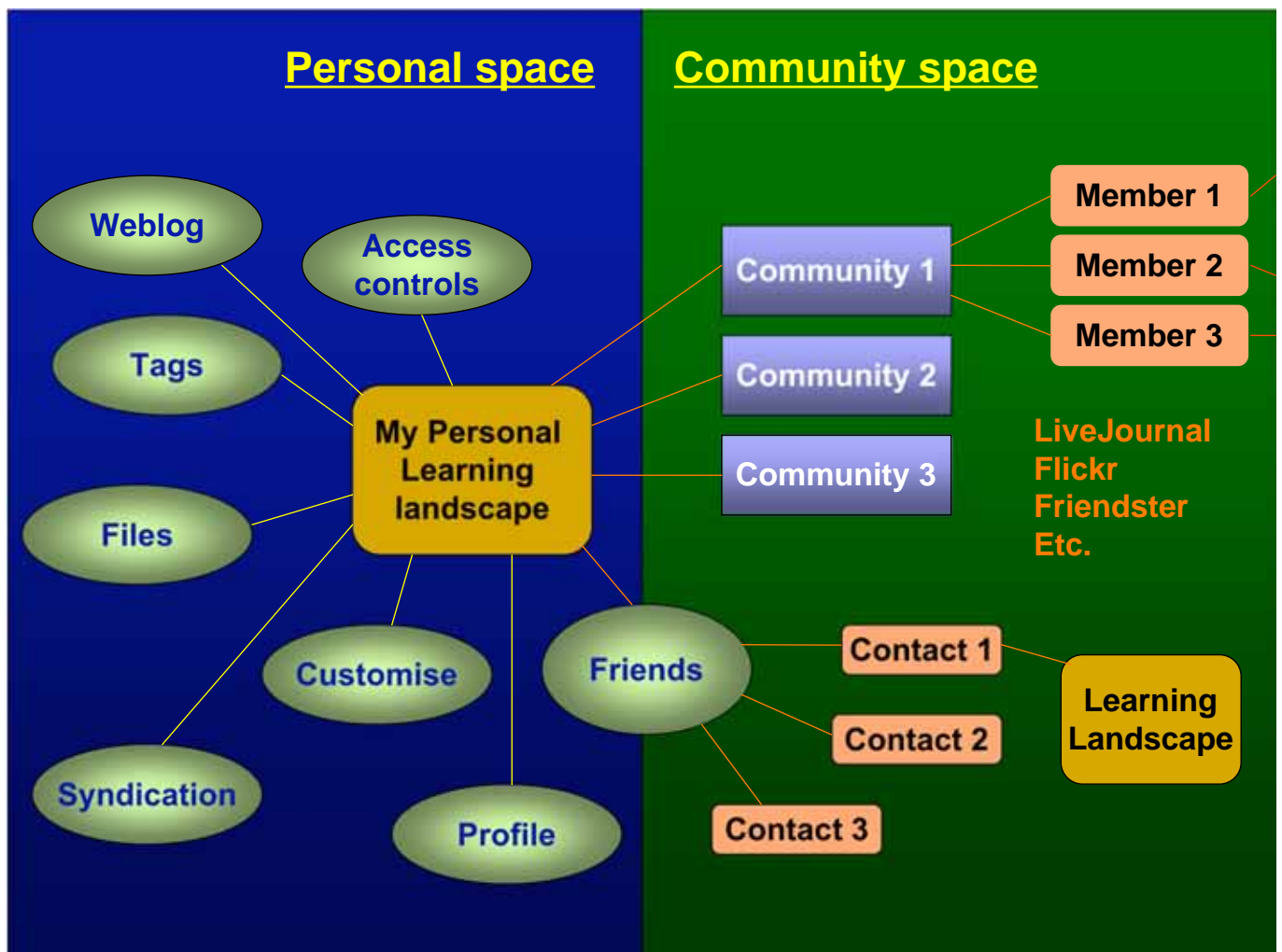
Brief History

- Top down approach to ePortfolios
- Developing an alternative
- Establishing your own space (learners)
- Provides a learner controlled space to explore, reflect, use as they want
- It is about creating your own identity, then using this to interact with others, around common interests



Part One: creating your own environment

- Learners can set up their own space, their digital identity
- Gathering up resources; files, online content, reflections
- Control their own environment
- Customise as desired

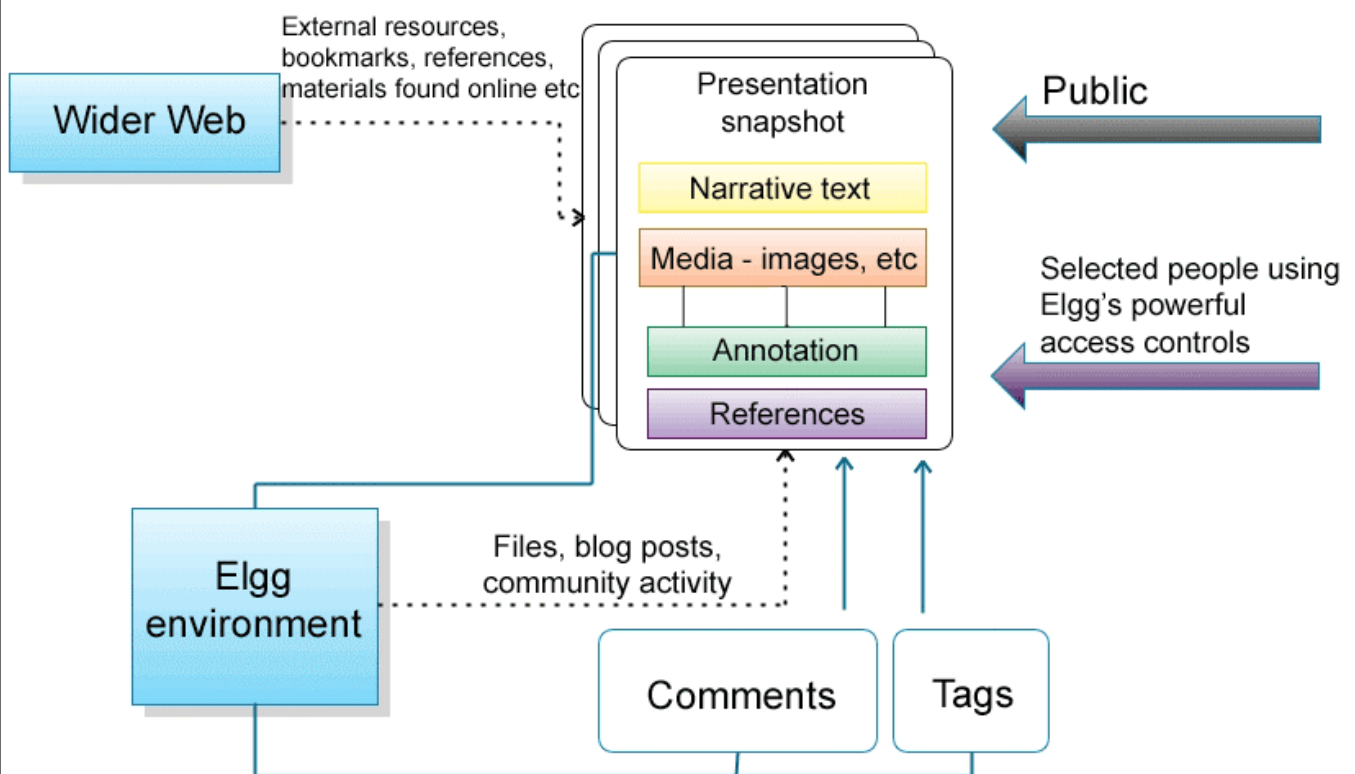


Part two: presenting and connecting

- Using Elgg's presentation tool (soon to be released) learners can capture snapshots to present as evidence
- Using Elgg's powerful social networking capabilities learners can interact with others – connections are very powerful



The Elgg presentation snapshot tool :: capturing informal learning!



Users choice

- Interoperability/integration
- Users should be able to choose which tools they interact with
- Open standards
- Disability considerations
- Usability is the key!



Technologies

- Blogging / Wikis
- PLE's / ePortfolios
- RSS / aggregation
- FOAF / RDF
- SSO – single sign on / OpenID
- Extensible architecture – API's



How does it work?

- Gather up evidence
- Persists beyond the duration of a course or program
- Allows for reflective commentary which can be shared with as many or few people as the user wants
- Builds up an identity which can be shared and used to make connections to others - auto tags
- Pull in resources which are important
- Use your identity to interact in other learning communities



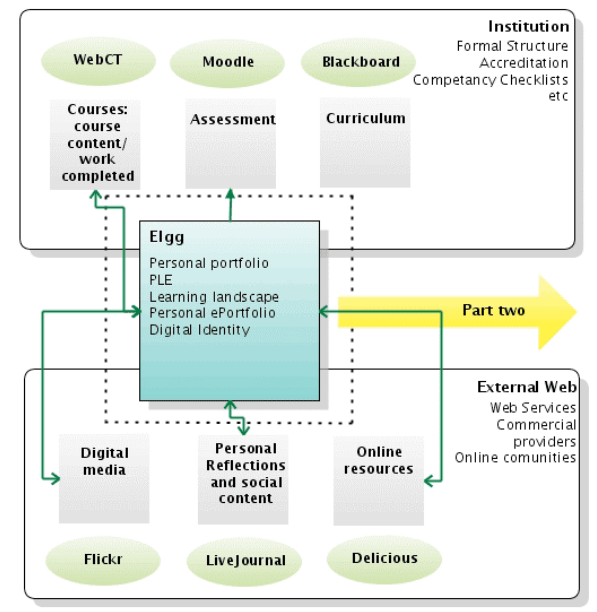
How does it work part 2

- Profile :: identity
- Blogs :: reflective thoughts, dissemination, collaboration
- Files :: artifacts, evidence
- Access controls :: controlling your space
- Resources :: pull in relevant content
- Communities :: ad-hoc spaces for lightweight collaboration

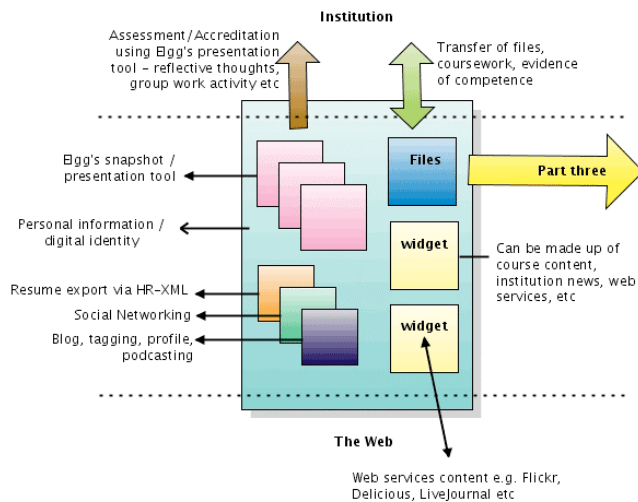


Elgg and the institution

Elgg and the institution part one



Focus on Elgg part two



Hands on session one

- Create a profile – explore the potential of connections through the profile
- Do a introductory blog post
- Upload a file
- Embed a file in a blog post
- Make 'friends'
- Configure your environment



Hands on session 2

- Access controls
- Theming
- Aggregation
- Building ad-hoc communities



Where to next for Elgg?

- Development of a presentation module
- Extensive aggregation of external services
- Resume/CV component
- Continue to gather user data and build example scenarios to help new users
- Improved user interface and admin area
- Construction of a global learning environment



Thanks!

Thank you for listening.

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