

Creation of a personal learning landscape: homogenizing weblogging, social networking and ePortfolios

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Creation of a personal learning landscape

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Questions:

1. How many of you currently use eportfolios at your institution?

2. What do you see as the key promise of eportfolios? Are there tools out there currently that allow for successful implementation?

“Social software lets people rendezvous, connect or collaborate by use of a computer network.”

Wikipedia [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_software]

3. Do you see eportfolios as social software? Why? Why not?

My e-portfolio is:

My Digital Identity

A place to reflect about my experiences and store artefacts that represent them

A means to interact with others, resources etc.

Most importantly, it is mine.

Ownership is key!

Poisoning the well:

“I made the public statement this week, that high stakes assessment and accountability are killing portfolios as a reflective tool to support deep learning. Those mandated portfolios have lost their heart and soul: not creating meaning, but jumping through hoops!”

(Helen Barrett, 2005:

<http://electronicportfolios.org/blog/2005/04/poisoning-well.html>)

Misja Hoebe:

“My experience is that because of accountability issues portfolio ownership often implicitly gets transferred to the institution, which inevitably leads to the loss of control by the learner. So, more than often the student is being asked to answer accountability issues via the predefined portfolio formats. No wonder that most students don't have very positive experiences with portfolios: it's not *their* thing.”

(<http://elgg.net/misja/weblog/>)

The e-portfolio and change

- ❖ Learning on the move
- ❖ Informal/formal learning
- ❖ Different learning experiences
- ❖ Digital Stories (Helen Barrett)

One step further – the learning landscape

- ❖ Structure and scaffolding
- ❖ Rich online environments
- ❖ Aggregated artefacts
- ❖ Incorporating everyday web techniques and services
- ❖ Del.icio.us, Flickr, Live Journal, TypePad etc.

The learning landscape:

- ❖ Connection of learners, resources, tutors
- ❖ Sharing resources and experiences
- ❖ Applications beyond courses -> Increased engagement?
- ❖ Social eportfolio
- ❖ The ability to grow as the learner grows
- ❖ Creation of learning communities
- ❖ View “learning” beyond the rigid structure of degree outlines and requirements –
- ❖ Incorporating experiences from a variety of learning contexts
- ❖ Bottom up approach

Components

Weblog

File storage

User profile

Tagging

Customisation

Access controls

Social networking

43 Things

flickr BETA

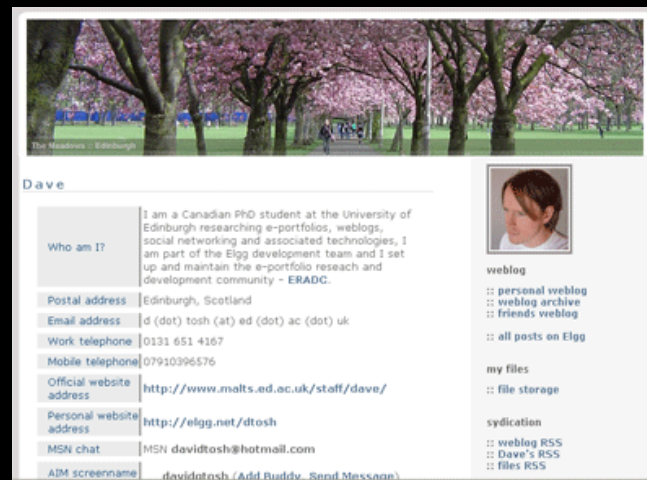
friendster
Be in control of who can see your photos.

LIVE JOURNAL™

Technorati

Repositories
Such as the
Netherlands

Syndication

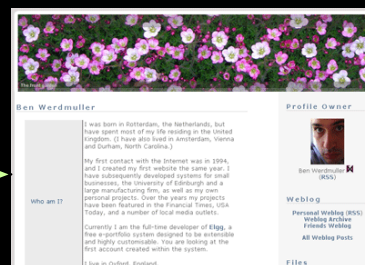


Dave

I am a Canadian PhD student at the University of Edinburgh researching e-portfolios, weblog, social networking and associated technologies. I am part of the Elgg development team and I sat up and maintain the e-portfolio research and development community - ERADC.

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Personal website address	http://elgg.net/dtosh
MSN chat	MSN davidtosh@hotmail.com
AIM screenname	davidtosh (Add Buddy, Send Message)

- weblog
 - :: personal weblog
 - :: weblog archive
 - :: friends weblog
 - :: all posts on Elgg
- my files
 - :: file storage
- sydication
 - :: weblog RSS
 - :: Dave's RSS
 - :: files RSS



Ben Werdmuller

I was born in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, but have spent most of my life residing in the United Kingdom. I have also lived in Amsterdam, Vienna and Durham, North Carolina.

My first contact with the Internet was in 1994, and I created my first website the same year. I have subsequently developed systems for small businesses, the University of Edinburgh and a large manufacturing firm, as well as my own personal projects. Over the years my projects have been featured in the Financial Times, USA Today, and a number of local media outlets.

Currently I am the full-time developer of Elgg, a free e-portfolio system designed to be extensible and highly customizable. The year ending at the first account created within the system.

I live in Oxford, England.

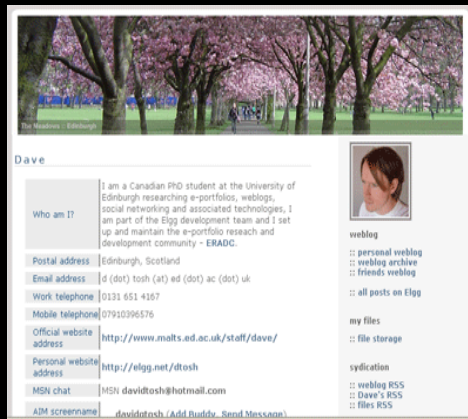
- Profile Owner
- Weblog
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 - Weblog Archive
 - Friends Weblog
 - All Weblog Posts

My Communities

Community members

Development Community

My Landscape



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AIM screenname: davidtosh / Add Buddy - Send Message

weblog
:: personal weblog
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my files
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syndication
:: weblog RSS
:: Dave's RSS
:: files RSS



Elgg personal learning landscape development community

home | contact | license | documentation | development blog | hosting | Download

This is the official development community of Elgg, an open source Personal Learning Landscape which allows learners to create their own online digital identity and interact with others creating both individual and community learning environments.

Elgg makes use of everyday web technologies to produce a powerful, easy to use personal system.

More:

- About Elgg
- Elgg sites
- Features
- Development blog

If you would like to see a little more please view [some screen shots](#).

ANNOUNCEMENT: We are pleased to confirm 6 months of independent funding. A roadmap will be posted shortly - keep checking back!

Features

- :: Multi-user weblogging
- :: Personal weblogging
- :: Social networking
- :: Full access controls
- :: File repository
- :: Tagging
- :: Customisation
- :: Syndication
- :: Community building

Download

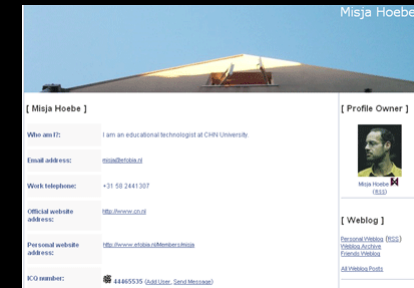
- :: Latest release: 0.1.2a
- :: Patches/Plug-ins
- :: Bug tracker

Readmap

- :: Collaboration

Events

- :: May 31st 2005 Ben will talk



Misja Hoebe

[Misja Hoebe] [Profile Owner]

Who am I? I am an educational technologist at CHU University.

Email address: mhoebe@chuu.nl

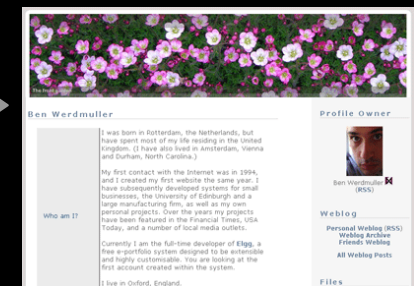
Work telephone: +31 50 241 207

Official website address: <http://www.chuu.nl>

Personal website address: <http://www.misja.nl/index.html>

KO member: [4446576](#) [Geddon](#) [Geertbeem](#)

Personal Weblog (RSS)
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Profile Owner

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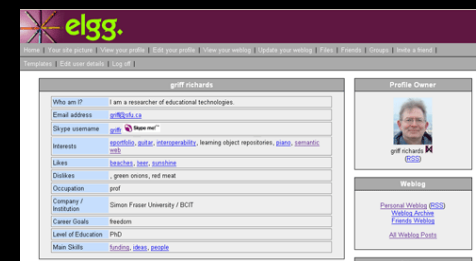
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Personal Weblog (RSS)
Weblog Archive
Friends Weblog
All Weblog Posts
Files

PhD Community

My Music Community



elgg.

griff richards

Profile Owner

Who am I? I am a researcher of educational technologies.

Email address: griff@cs.ubc.ca

Skype username: griff

Interests: eportfolio, edtech, interoperability, learning object repositories, plans, semantics

Likes: beaches, beer, synthwave

Dislikes: green onions, red meat

Occupation: prof

Company: Simon Fraser University / BCIT

Career Goals: freedom

Level of Education: PhD

Main Skills: teaching, ethics, people

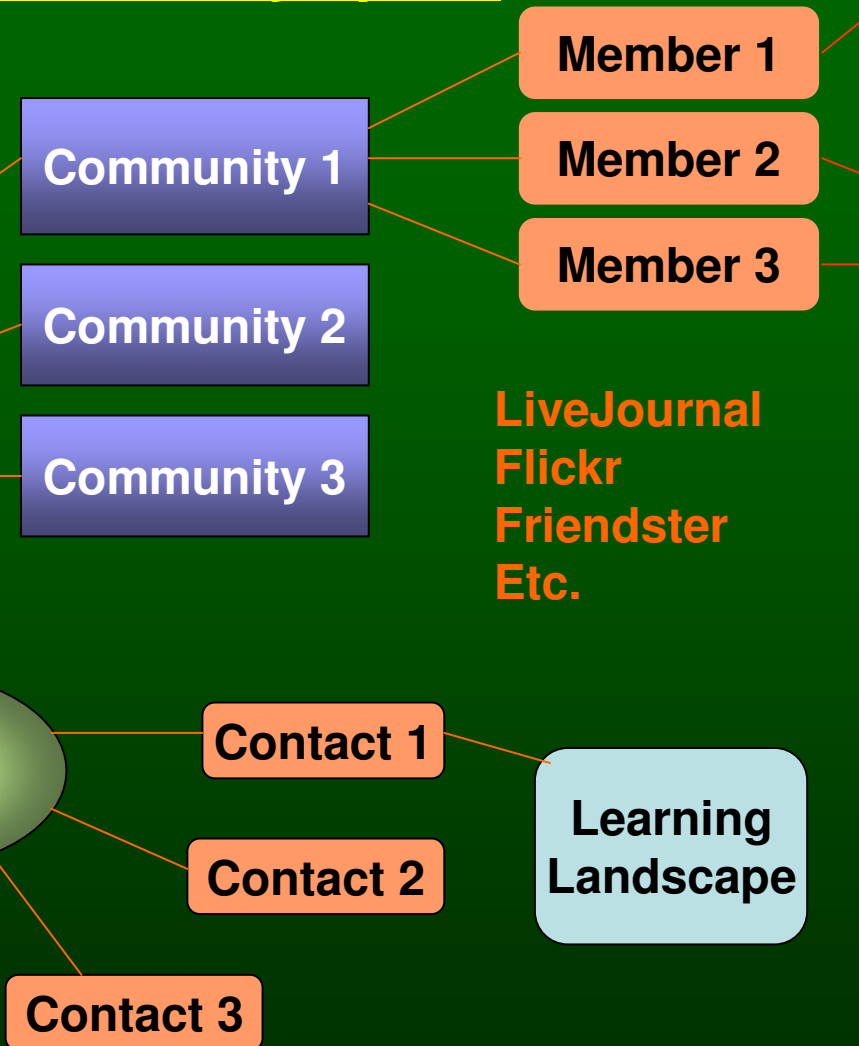
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All together: a personal learning landscape

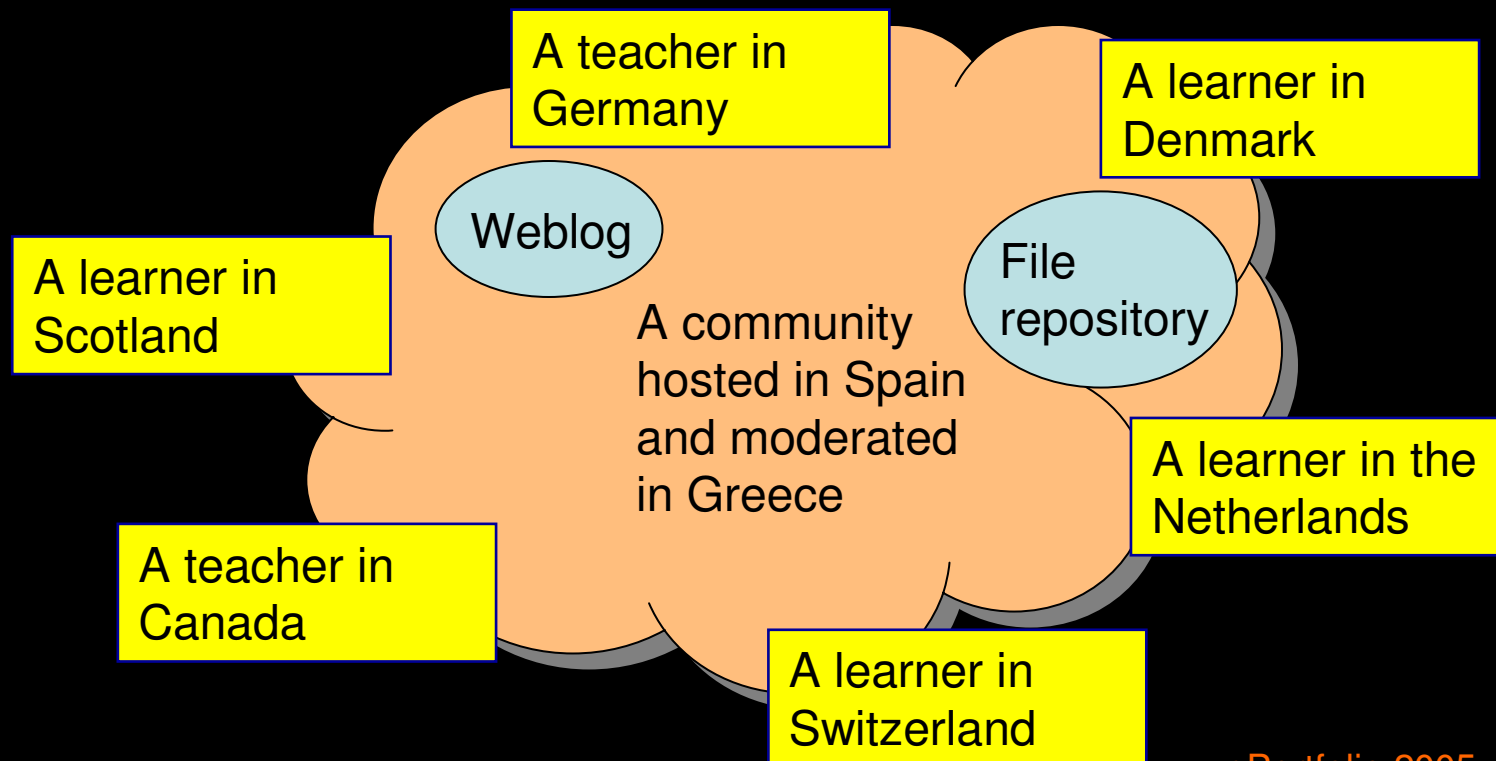
Personal space



Community space

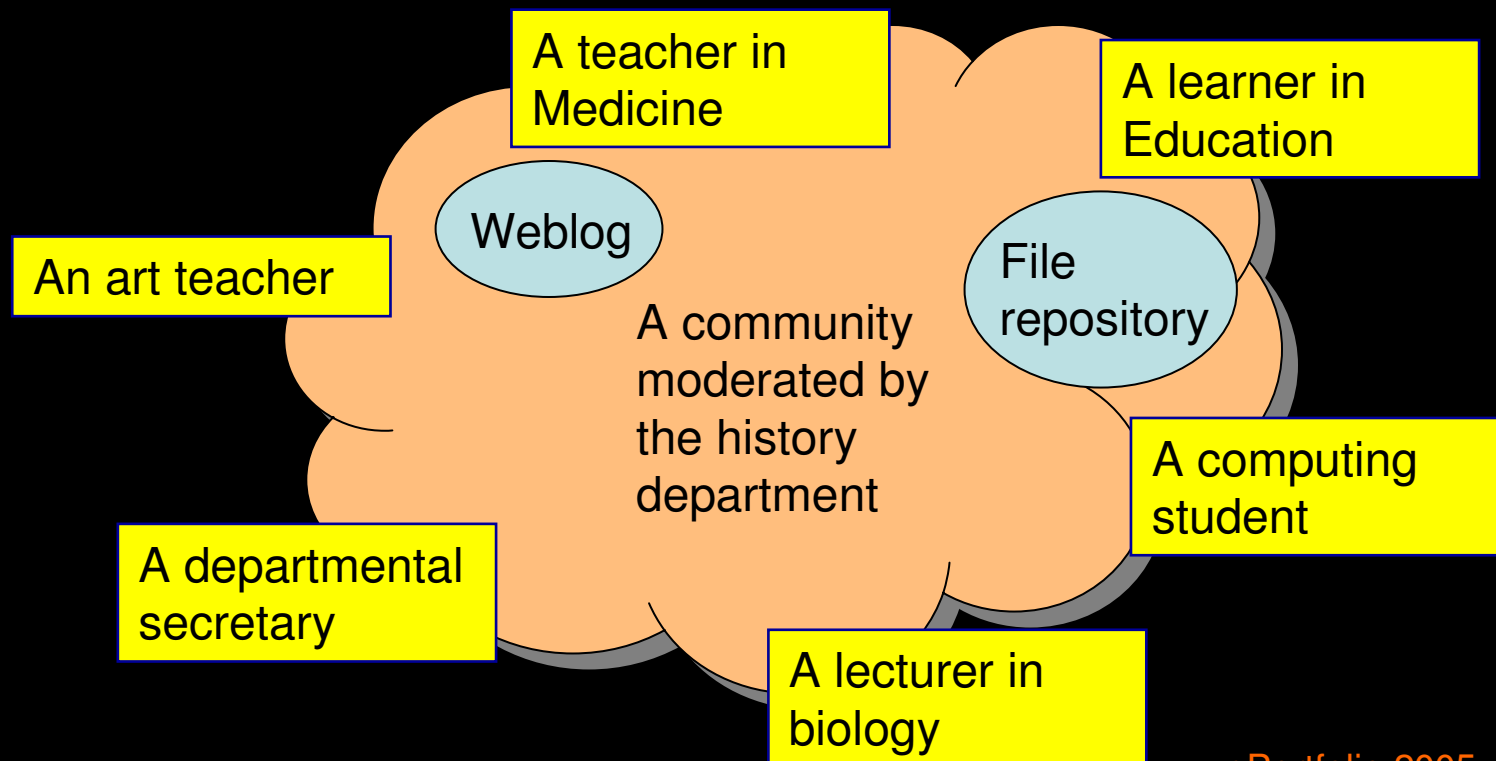


Further open standards would allow for a global learning landscape ...



Creation of a personal learning landscape

(Or just an inter-departmental one)



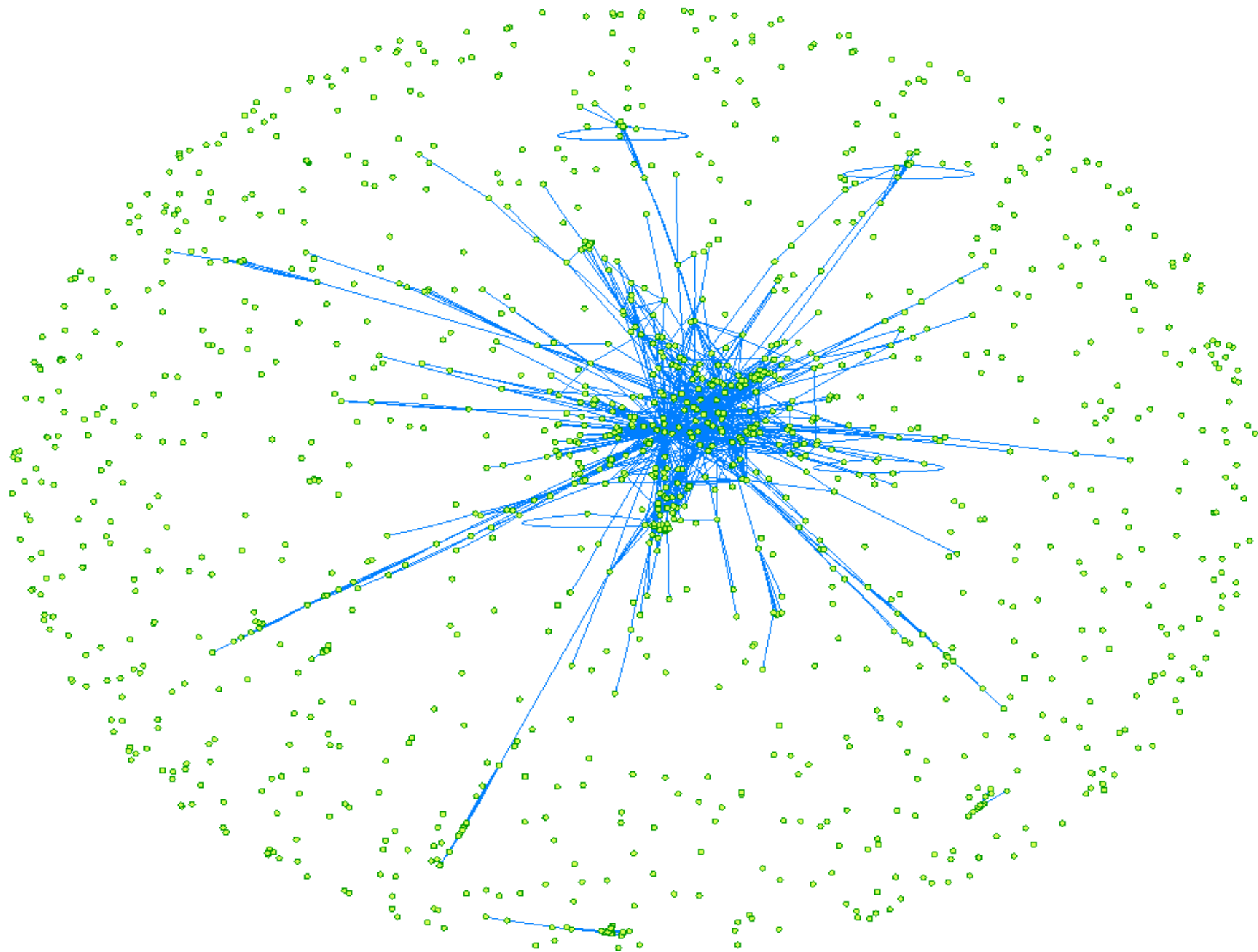
How is it done?

- ❖ RSS and Atom
Moodle, BBC, Guardian
- ❖ FOAF / RDF
LiveJournal, TypePad
- ❖ Extensible architecture



"An e-Portfolio is, by definition, an aggregate or composite of many facets. We can look at this quite literally as an e-portfolio being aggregated from multiple feeds, each of which supplies items about a particular aspect of the subject. By combining this set of feeds, we end up with a composite view, that can be used as the basis for a personal profile using FOAF, or to create weblog entries with a reflective purpose."

Scott Wilson: [<http://www.cetis.ac.uk/members/scott/entries/20050603020705>]



Connections and communication

It is all about connections and communication - making this as easy and convenient as possible!

Each learner connects using his or her own interface.

- Each user can customise the look and feel of their personal learning landscape
- Each system can have its own local settings (e.g. interface language) and local extra features while connecting to the global learning landscape

The pedagogy

Research on student engagement with learning suggests that when students perceive that they have choices in how to learn subject matter they are more engaged and motivated to move beyond simple information acquisition to trying to gain an understanding of the subject.

(Ramsden, 2003; Marton and Saljo, 1984; Kuh et.al., 2005; LaSere Erickson and Weltner-Strommer, 1991; Entwistle, 1998)

The pedagogy 2

“These notions suggest that we should not think of learners as passive recipients or assimilators of the environment, but rather as very active constructors of artefacts and meaning, which, in turn, is a necessary part of the learning process. This way of thinking emphasizes that an important part of designing learning environments is to design for participation and engagement of the learner and enable them to create their learning environment”

Marisa Ponit and Thomas Ryberg (Rethinking Virtual Space as a Place for Sociability Theory and Design Implications – [http://www.shef.ac.uk/nlc2004/Proceedings/Symposia/Symposium13/Ponti_Ryberg.htm]

The pedagogy 3

- ❖ Source information
- ❖ Make connections
- ❖ Collaborate with others / social interaction
- ❖ Reflect on various aspects
- ❖ Pull in experiences from all sectors
- ❖ Introduces a 'fun' element – helps engagement
- ❖ Social as well as learning tool
- ❖ Create a digital identity

Creation of a personal learning landscape

Student quote

“Learning isn’t just about the end product, after all - it’s about the process, and e-Portfolios need to reflect that. I agree that what makes “e-Portfolios” more than just a collection of past work (like traditional portfolios) is the “reflective piece”. I’m going to add to that and say that the social aspect of learning is important, too. As an undergrad, my peers have been and continue to be invaluable to me - we’ve bounced ideas off each other, studied into the early hours of the morning, explored new ideas, designed, implemented, and debugged hours and hours worth of projects and code together. I wouldn’t be the person I am without them. I wouldn’t be where I am without them. “

(Student – UBC)

Pulling it all together

- ❖ Let's learn from social practise
- ❖ Learner-centric, learner controlled
- ❖ Increase learner engagement! A key to the e-portfolio movement.