

 **Experiences of Technology Enhanced Learning: What Went Wrong?**

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 **Some views...**

"If you want to succeed, double your failure rate."

Thomas Watson, Sr

 **Ten million dollar mistake**

the story of Thomas Watson, Sr. calling in a manager who had made a ten million-dollar mistake.
When the manager entered Watson's office, he said
"I assume that you want my resignation"
Watson replied,
"You can't be serious, I have just invested ten million dollars in your education."

 **The Paper**

- Presents 4 case studies
 - Microcosm and the Scholar Project
 - The Modular MSc
 - The e3an project
 - The DialogPLUS project
- In this presentation we will present just the first and the last.

 **Microcosm and the Scholar Project**

Microcosm

- Open Hypertext System
- CS Research Project
- Educational applications

Scholar Project

- Campus wide structure for multimedia learning
- "Shift the culture of the university"




 **How do we do it?**



 **Our Philosophy...**



 **Enter real life -> change!**

- 1993 → WWW
- 1990's → multiple platforms
→ technical advances
- University of anywhere → academics careers
→ personal agendas
→ institutional priorities
→ real classes
→ real timetables

 **So...**



- Applications produced
- Application used
- Systems becomes redundant
- Colleagues move on
- Migration cost time and money
- Culture is complex
- Projects have an end date
- Network of expertise
- Trust bonds
- Future collaborations



The DialogPLUS project

- "Digital Libraries in Support of Innovative Approaches to Teaching and Learning in Geography"
- Collaboration
 - Pennsylvania State University
 - University of Leeds
 - UCSB
 - University of Southampton.
- Started February 2003
- JISC/NSF funding £1.5M

Objectives

- Bring emerging technologies and available digital content into core teaching and learning
- Demonstrate how the pedagogical process needs to be adapted or developed to support the learning process when using technology (=blended)
- Examine the human and organisational issues associated with implementing new modes of teaching
- A primary objective of the DialogPLUS project was to investigate the practicalities of the joint design and sharing of learning activities *based upon existing digital resources*

What Went Right?

- Large volume of online learning material, re-using digital resources from multiple sources
- Majority continues to be used after the funding has ceased.
- Evaluation indicated that high quality online learning activities, as part of a blended approach, did enrich programmes of study.
- Participant departments now have a sound understanding of good practice in design for learning, e-learning and blended learning
- Continued collaboration between Leeds, Southampton and Penn State Geography departments
- Investigated multiple approaches to resource federation

What Went Wrong (Embedding)?

- Do you call this embedding?
 - Is re-use of existing resources "embedding"?
 - What we wanted to see was the Schools / Departments reconfigured to continue producing stuff
 - To quite a large extent this has happened at Soton and PSU.

What Went Wrong (Sharing)?

- We allowed the participants to define what they meant by "Nuggets" (Learning objects)
- They defined things far too large to be shareable
- They collaborated on the design – but did not share
- Rather than share they federated their students or their courses
- As a question to the workshop – Is this a failure or an outcome?

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Other Confounding Factors

- Legal and IP issues were difficult trans-Atlantic
- It is almost impossible to design and experiment with real students that demonstrates that long term “learning is improved”.

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Other things that went wrong..

- In the Modular MSc – those in charge of operations did not understand the management mission
- In e3an – the technological challenges (of implementing standards) turned out to be much greater than anticipated

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What makes a successful project??

- A final project report which shows that the objectives were met and the budget kept to?
- A class of happy students?
- An evaluation which demonstrates that a novel method improves the student experience?
- A change in institutional culture?



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