

Personal Learning Environments



Stephen Downes
September 25, 2008

What is my personal
learning environment?

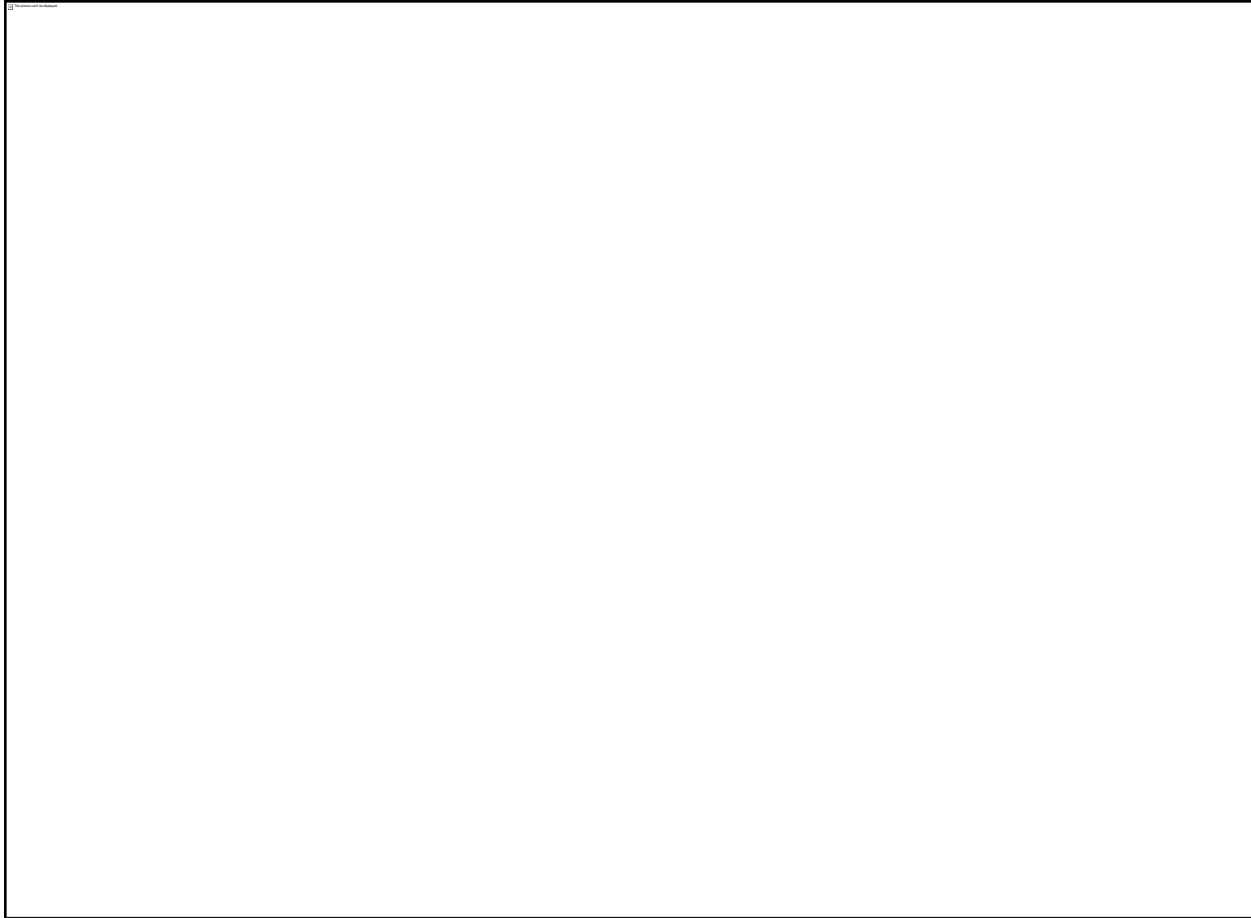


- A place to store (and share) my photos



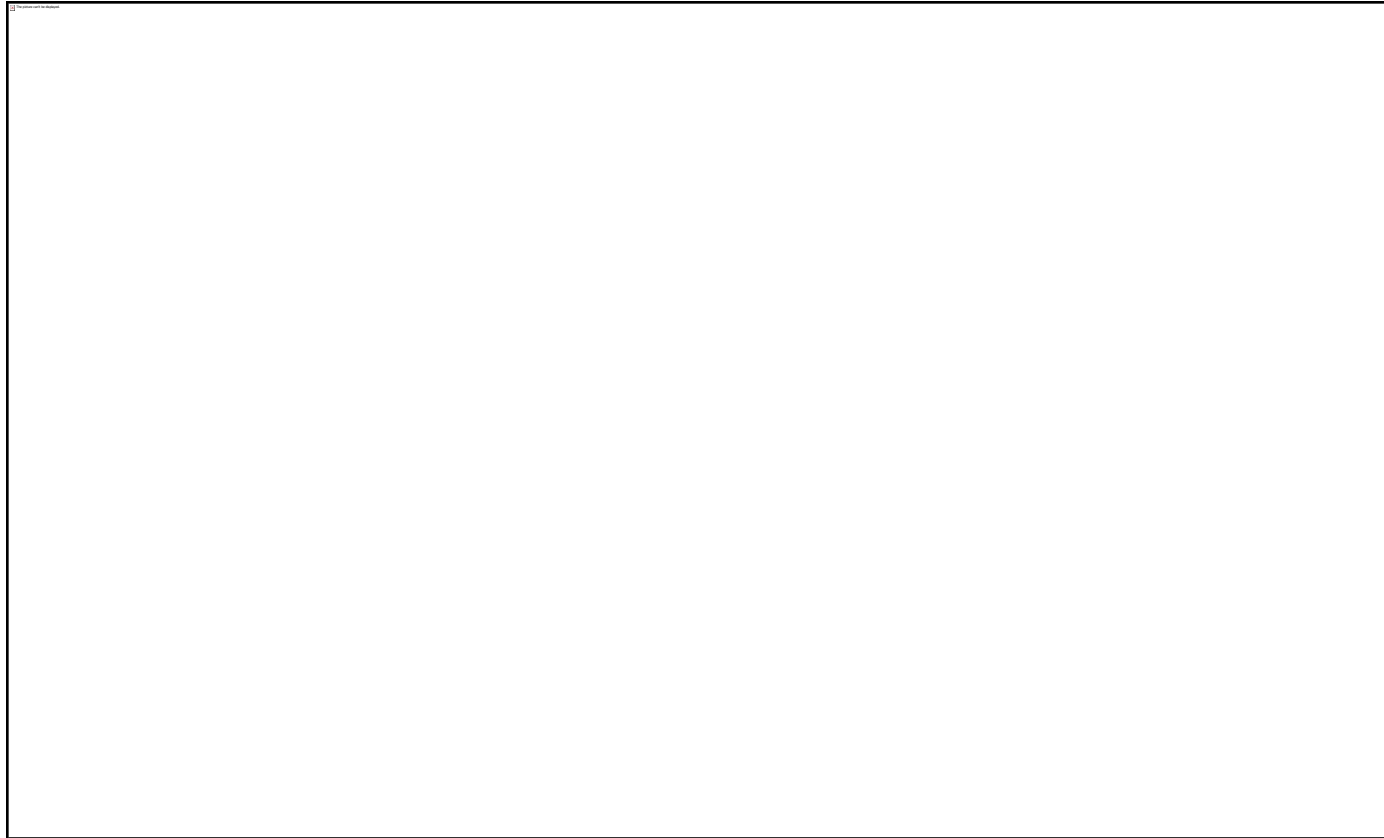
<http://www.flickr.com>

- A place to store (and share) my videos



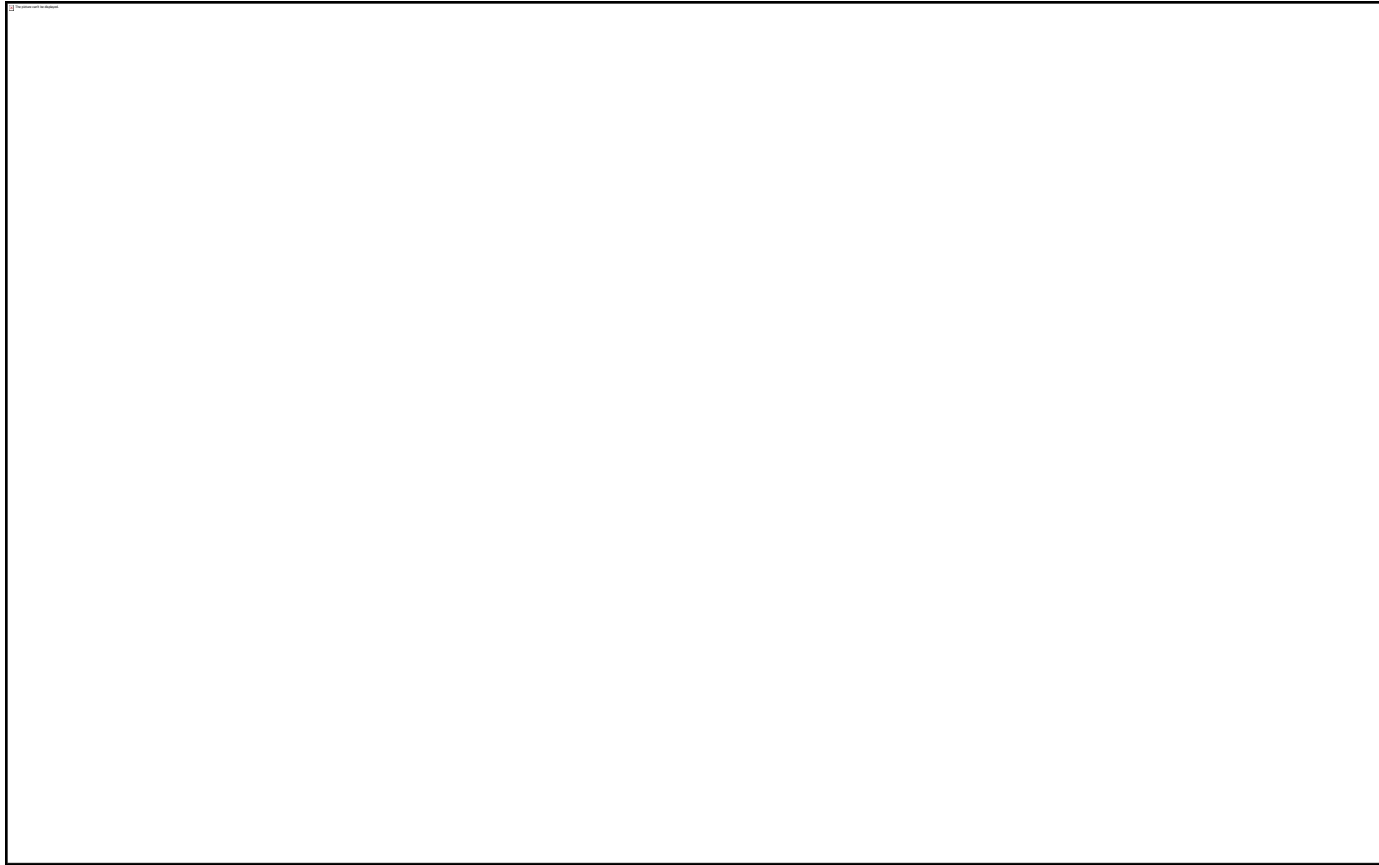
<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-4126240905912531540>

- A place to write an essay with my colleague in Montreal



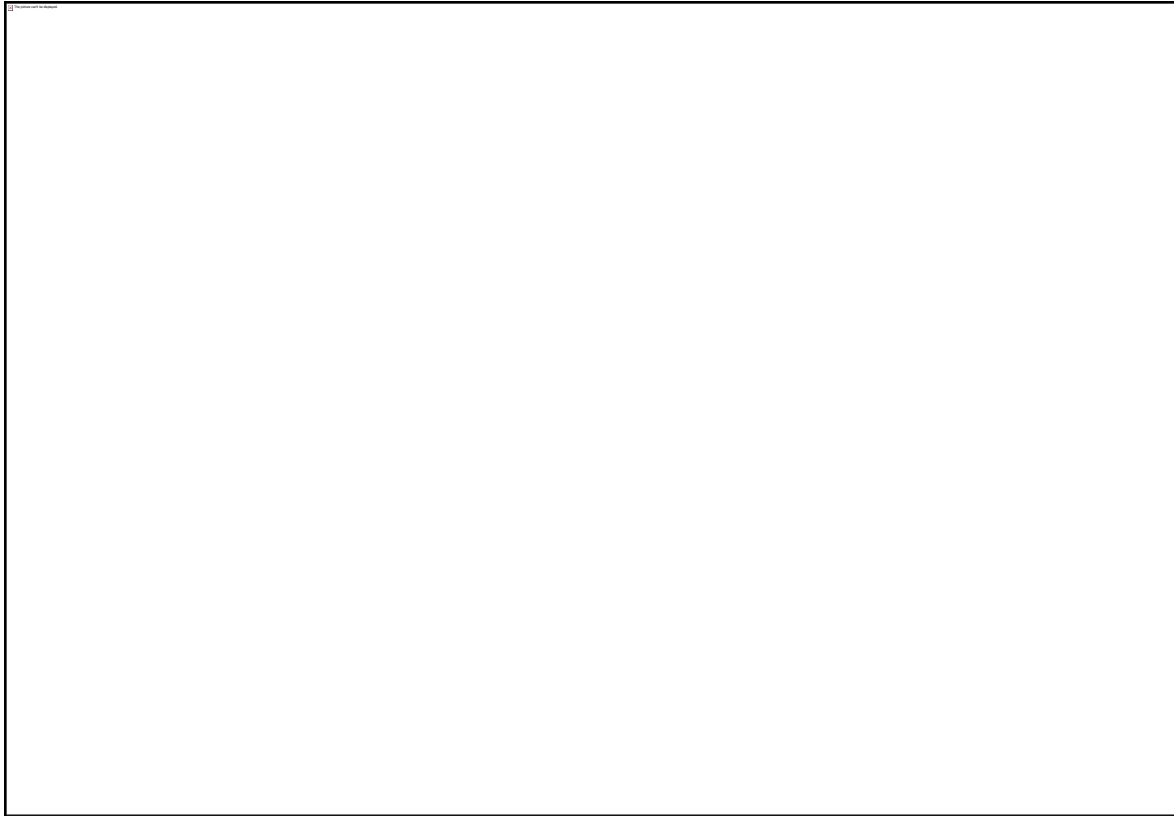
<http://docs.google.com>

- A way to stay up to date - *right*
up to date



<http://www.google.com/reader>

- A way to save on phone calls



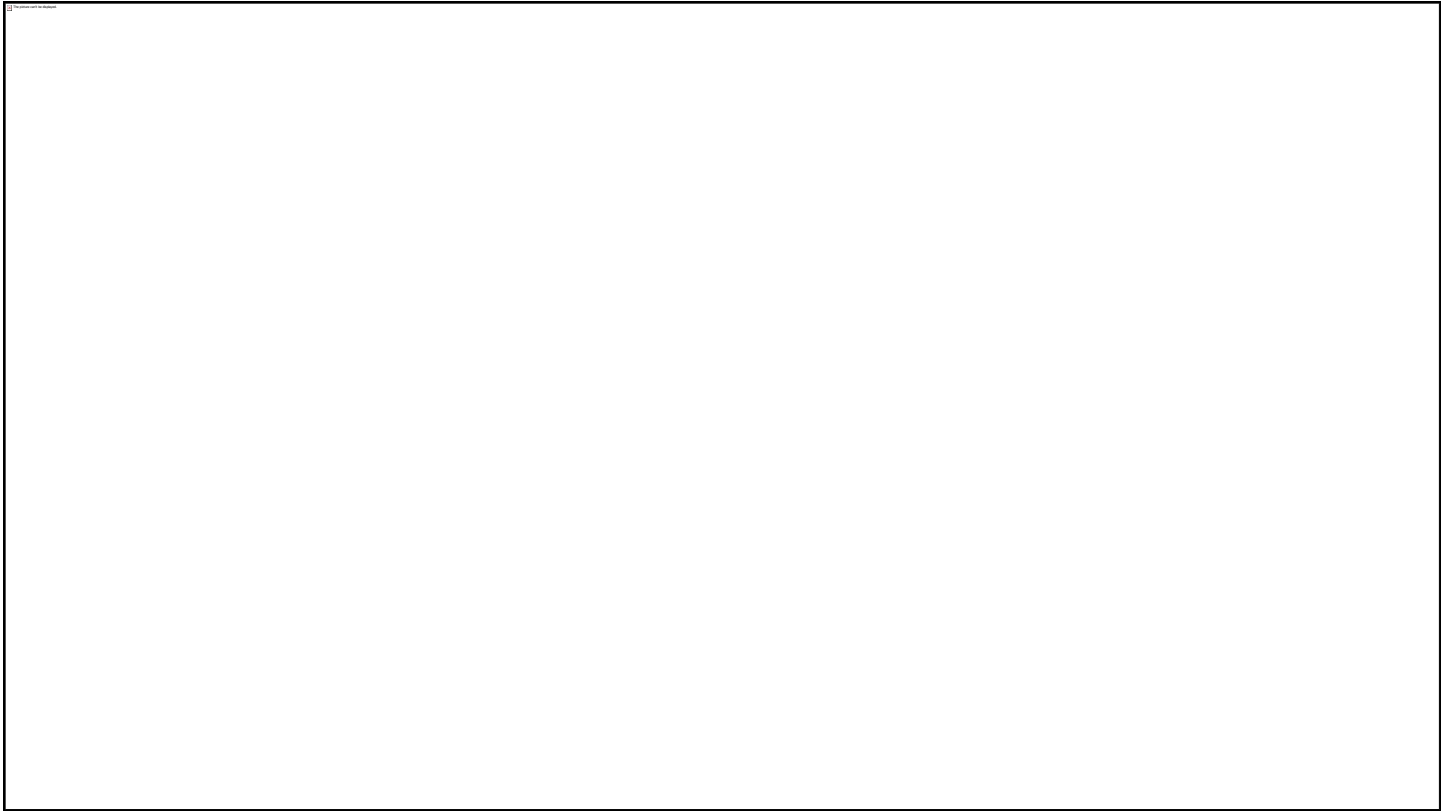
<http://www.skype.com>

- Knowing where I'm staying before I get there



<http://maps.google.com>

- An Easy Way To Draw Pictures



<http://www.gliffy.com>

What do personal learning environments mean for learners?



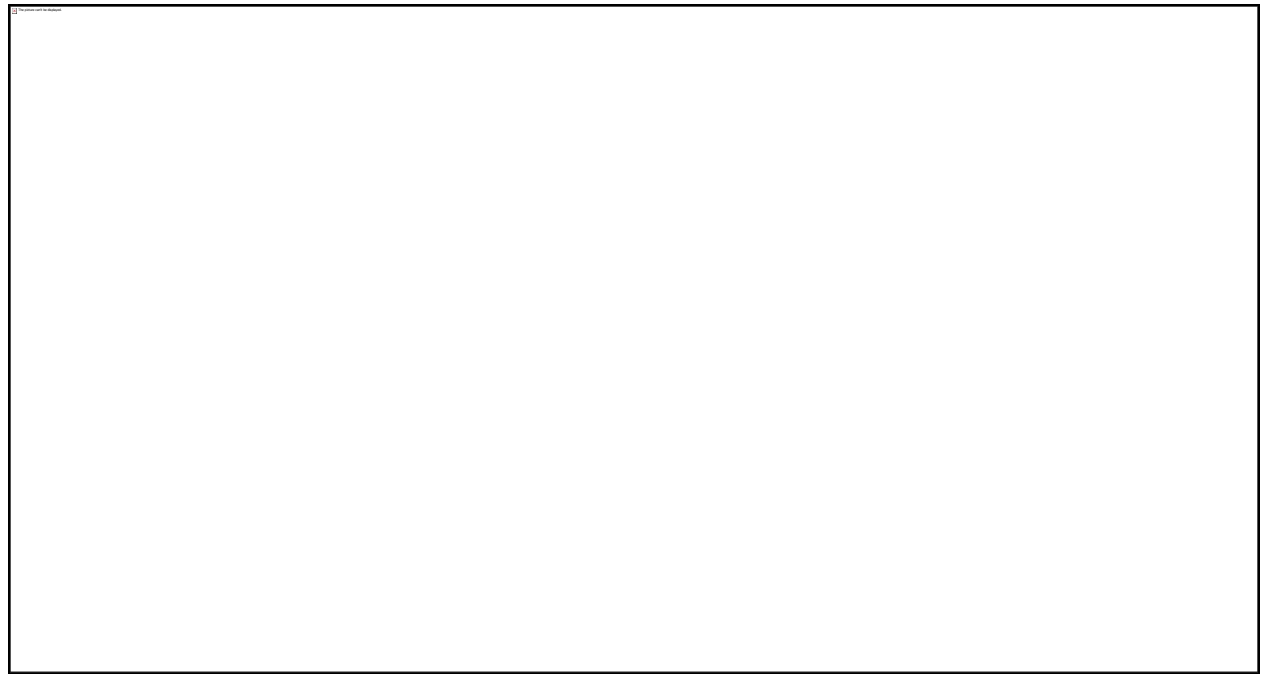
- A world of free learning resources...



<http://educationvault.blogspot.com/2008/08/zaidlearn-ocw-oer-lists.html>

Don't like the word 'free'? Deal with it...

Three Views of Learning Resources:

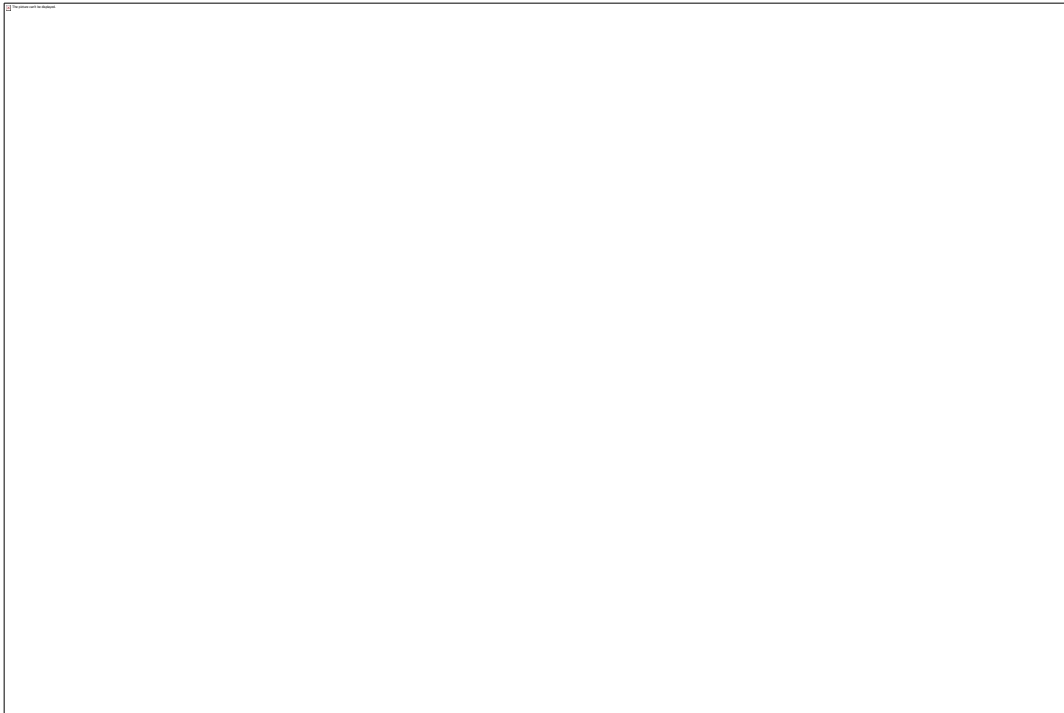


1. Learning Resources as a *thing*
 - Book, content object, etc



2. Learning Resources as *events*

– *Class, lecture, seminar, meeting*

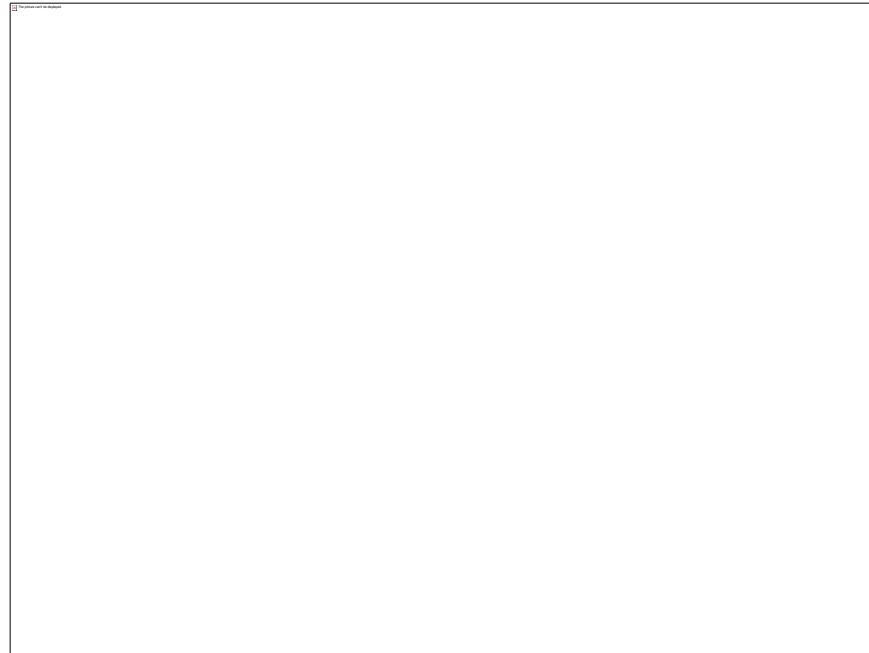


- The first two models are *information-theoretic* and *medium-based* models
 - They stress *content*
 - They stress *rules*



3. Learning Resources as *flow*

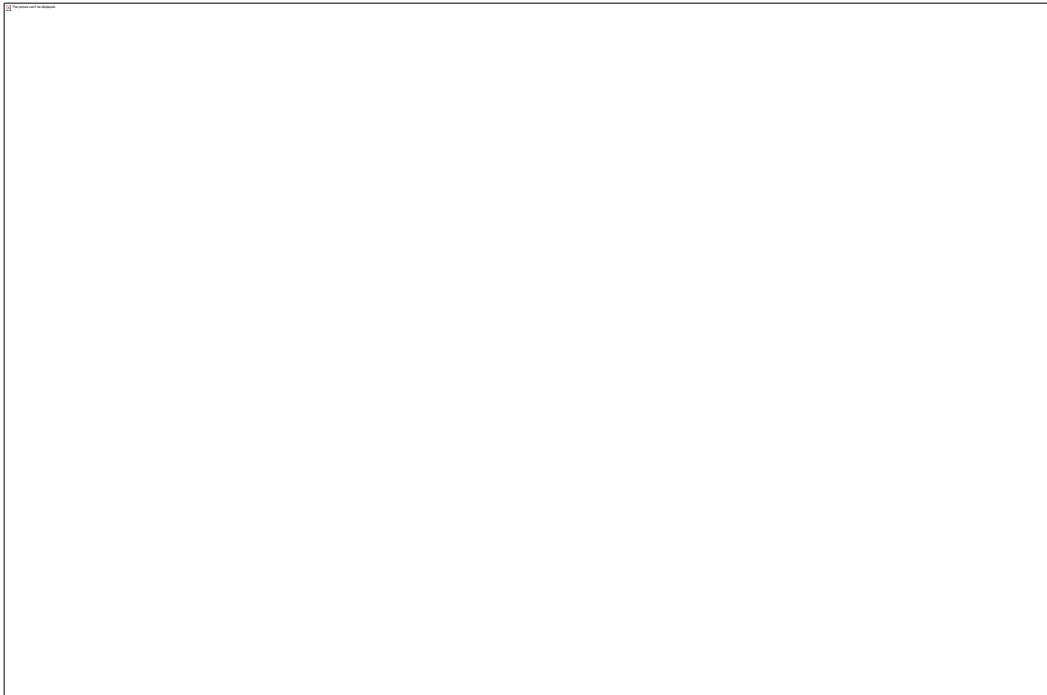
- Stresses experience
- Stresses pattern recognition



What does this look like?



- User generated Content
 - Personal, opinionated



- Network of interactions

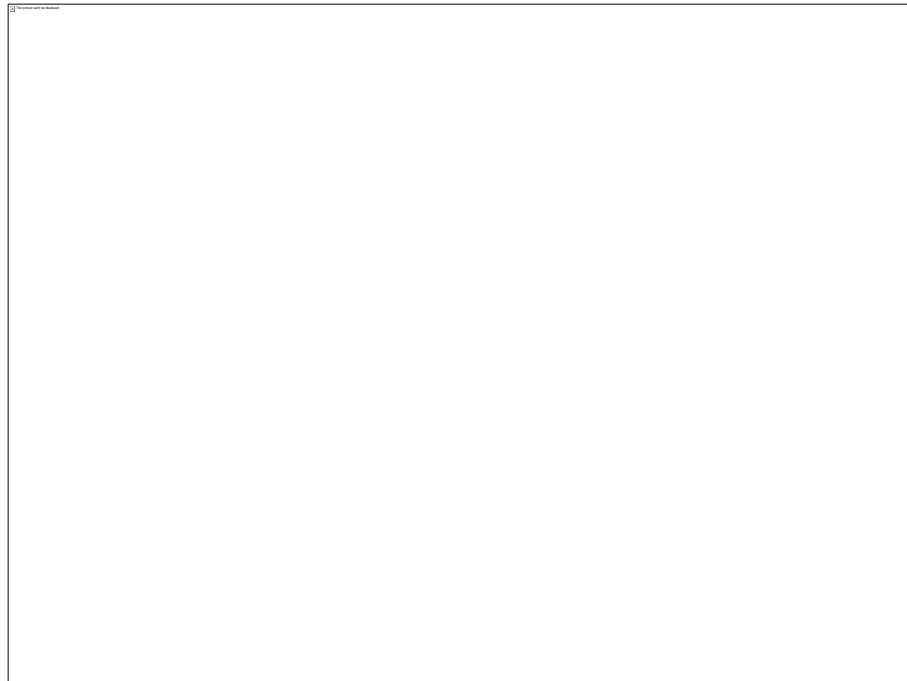


- Immersive Learning

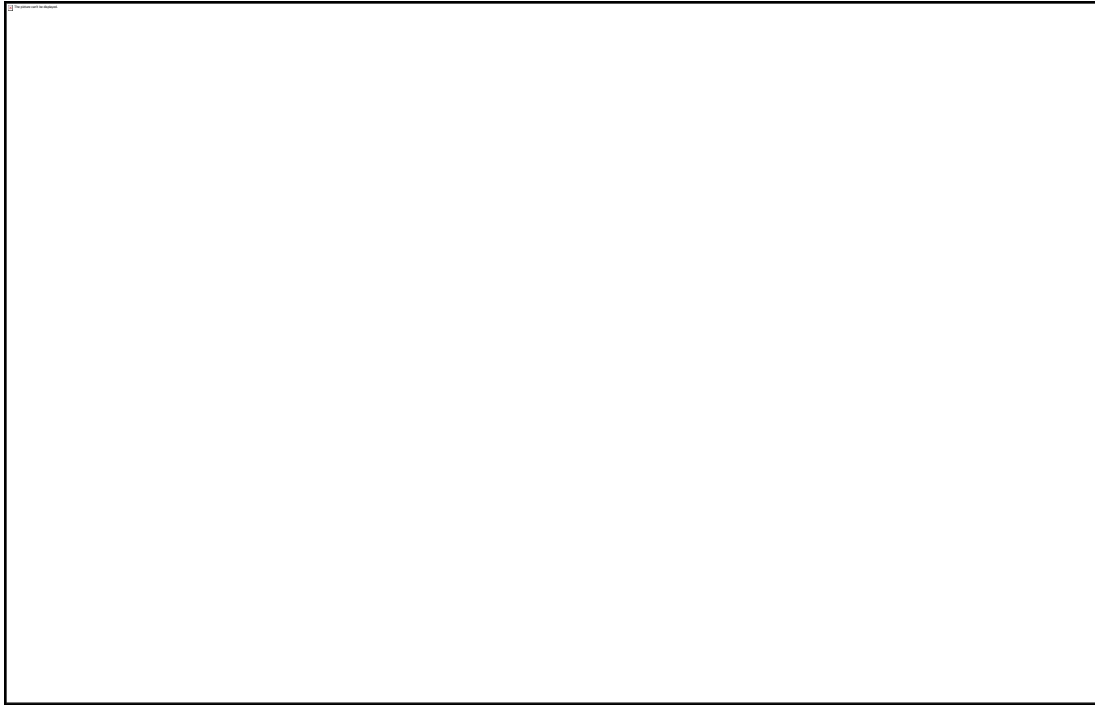


- **New Roles**

- For students - as creators of learning
- For teachers - as coaches and mentors
- For the rest of us - as teachers

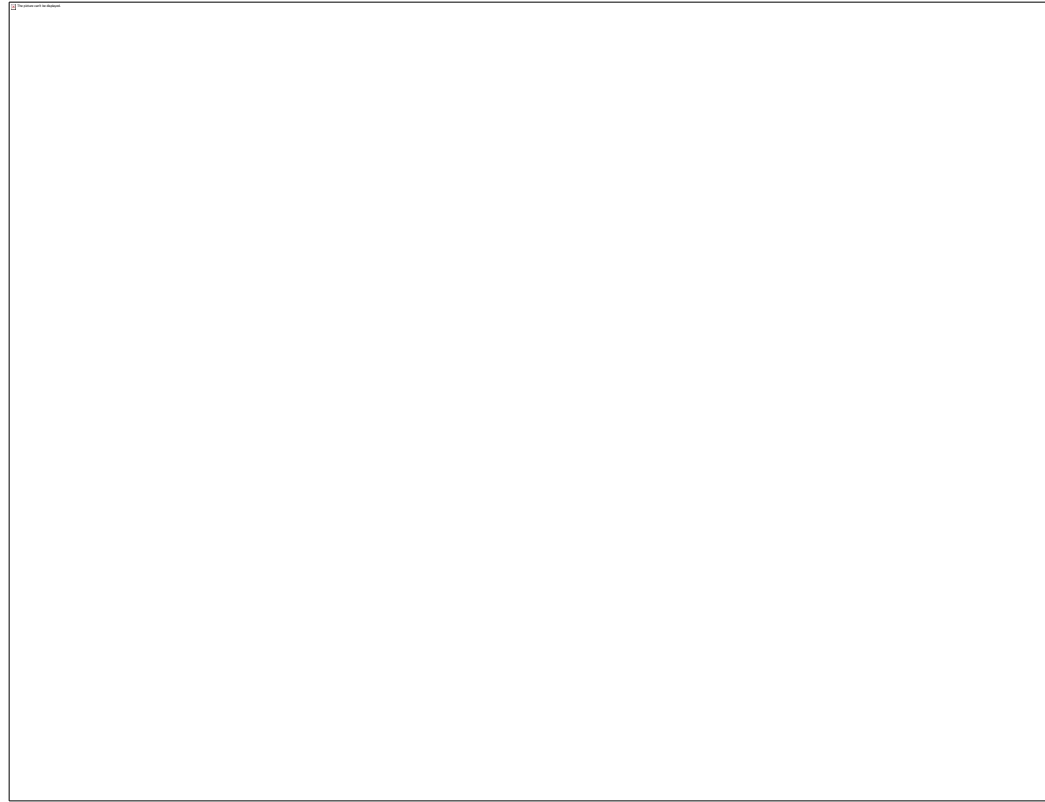


- Web of user-generated content (eg. Wikipedia)...



<http://www.wikipedia.org>

Learning as a network phenomenon...



Issues:

- Too much information, filtering info
- Too many sources to scan, new sources
- Localization, personalization, relevance

Response: Network Semantics



<http://epthinking.blogspot.com/2008/08/on-event-processing-network-and.html>

- Social networks and communities (entails a genuinely portable (and *owned*) identity)



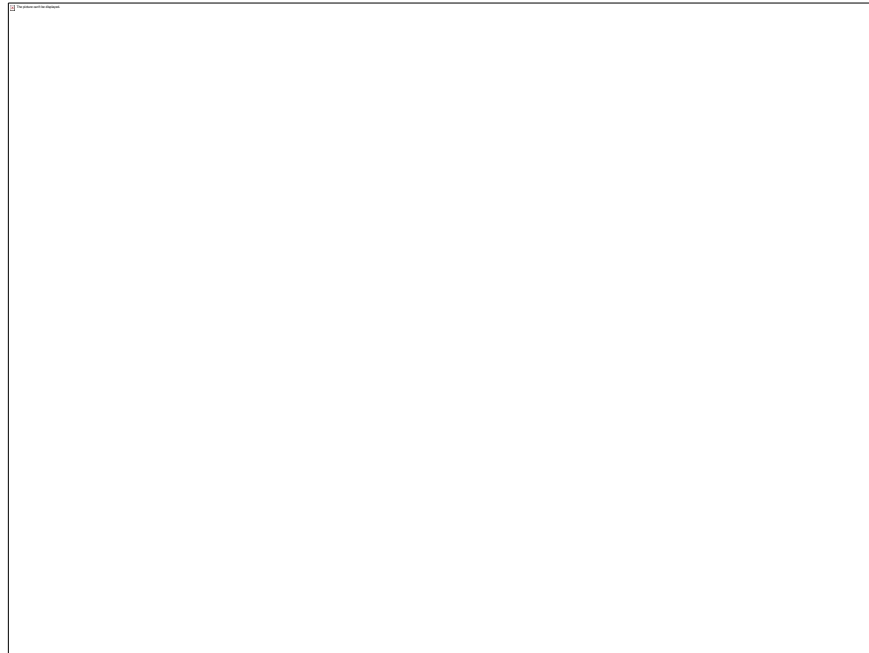
<http://www.facebook.com>

- Networks of interactions
(aggregate, remix, repurpose,
feed forward) – syndication

An ecology...



- The *personal* learning centre



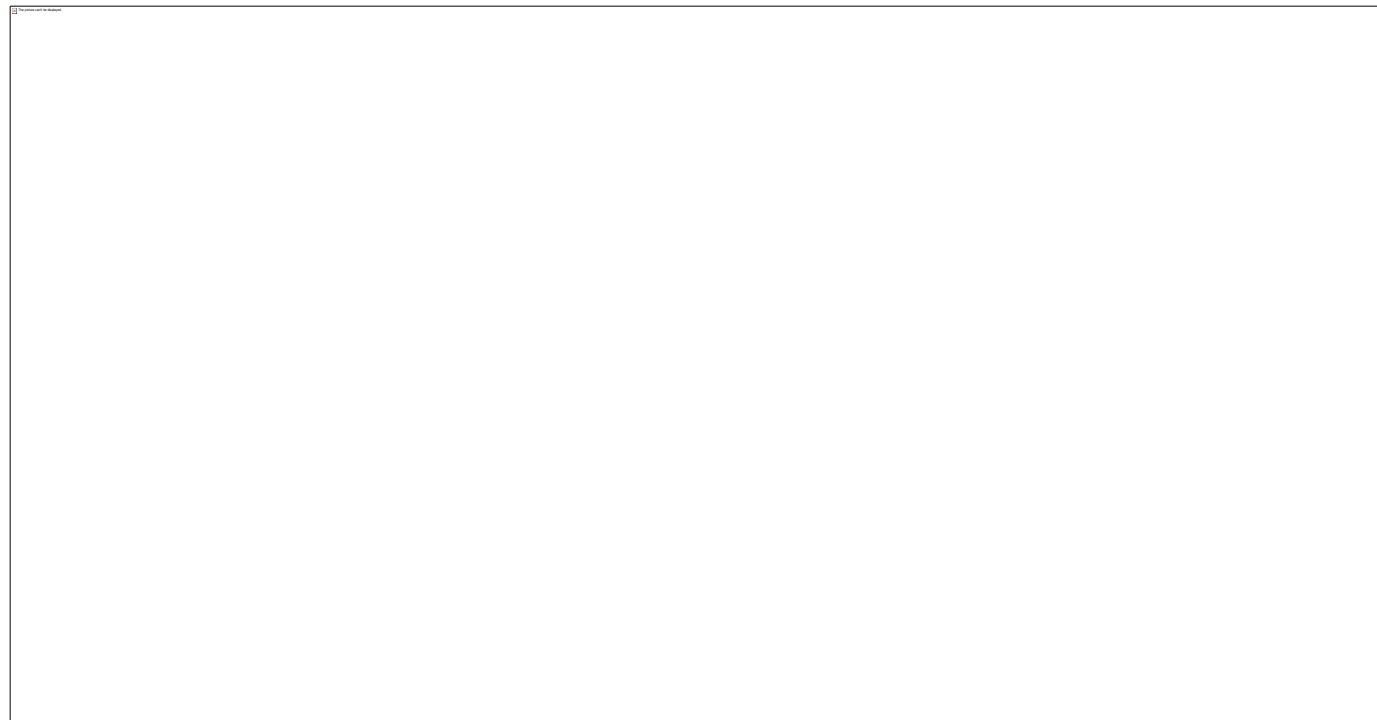
Autonomy

http://blog.core-ed.net/derek/2006/11/more_on_mles_and_ples.html

- The Network is Diverse – multiple views, multiple technologies



- The Network is connected and interactive (*not* 'integrated') – small pieces, loosely joined

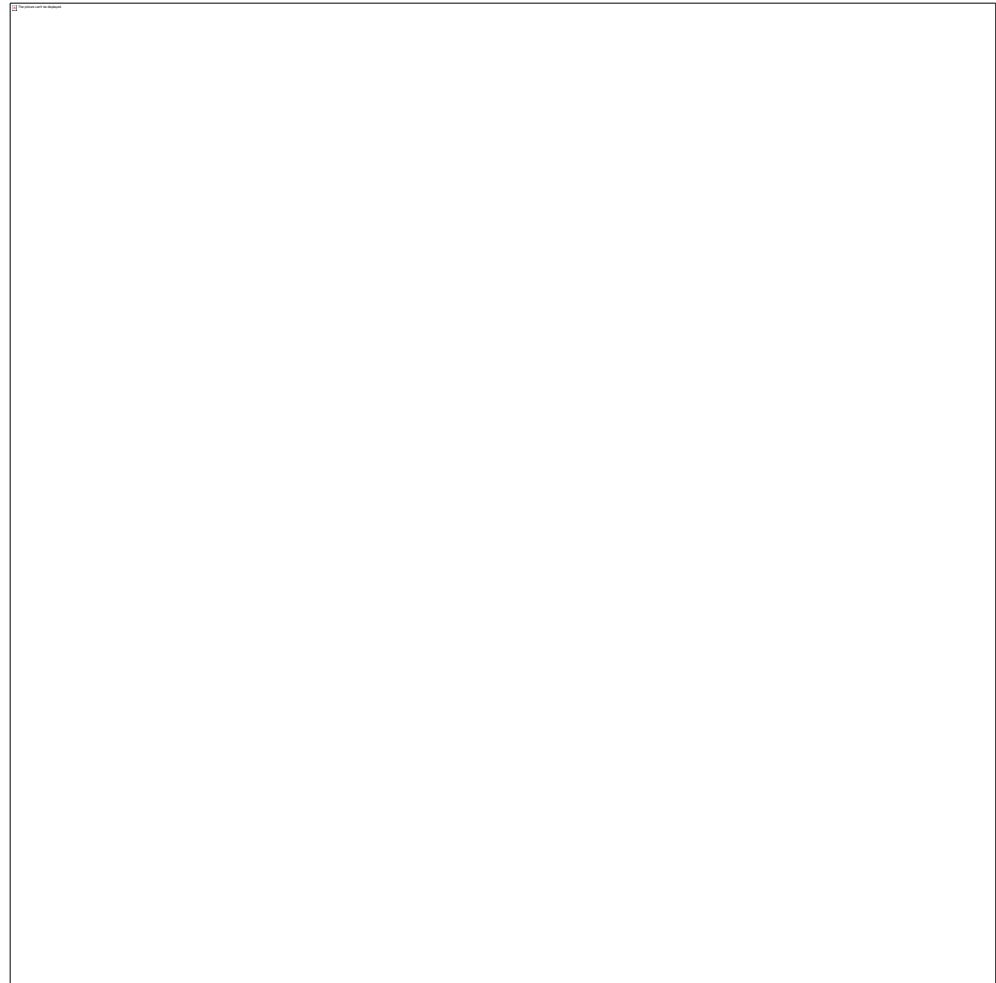


- The Network is *open*



http://park.org/Japan/NTT/DM/html_f4/F4_10600_e.html

What are the key technologies?



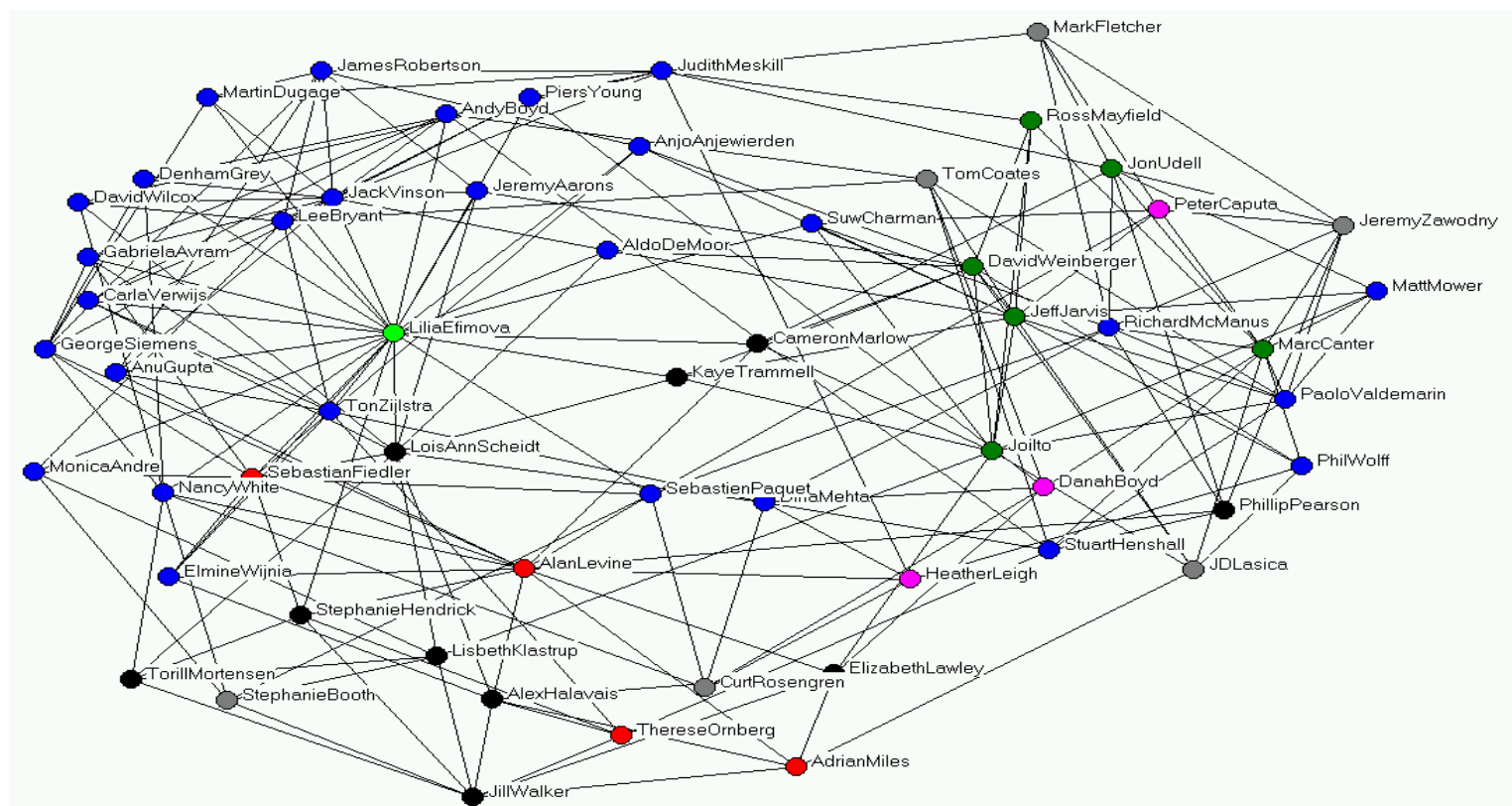
<http://www.bclir.org/Egypt.htm>

Web 2.0 - Core Technologies



Tools for worldmaking...

Social Networking



<http://staffdev.henrico.k12.va.us/parents/socnetwork.htm>

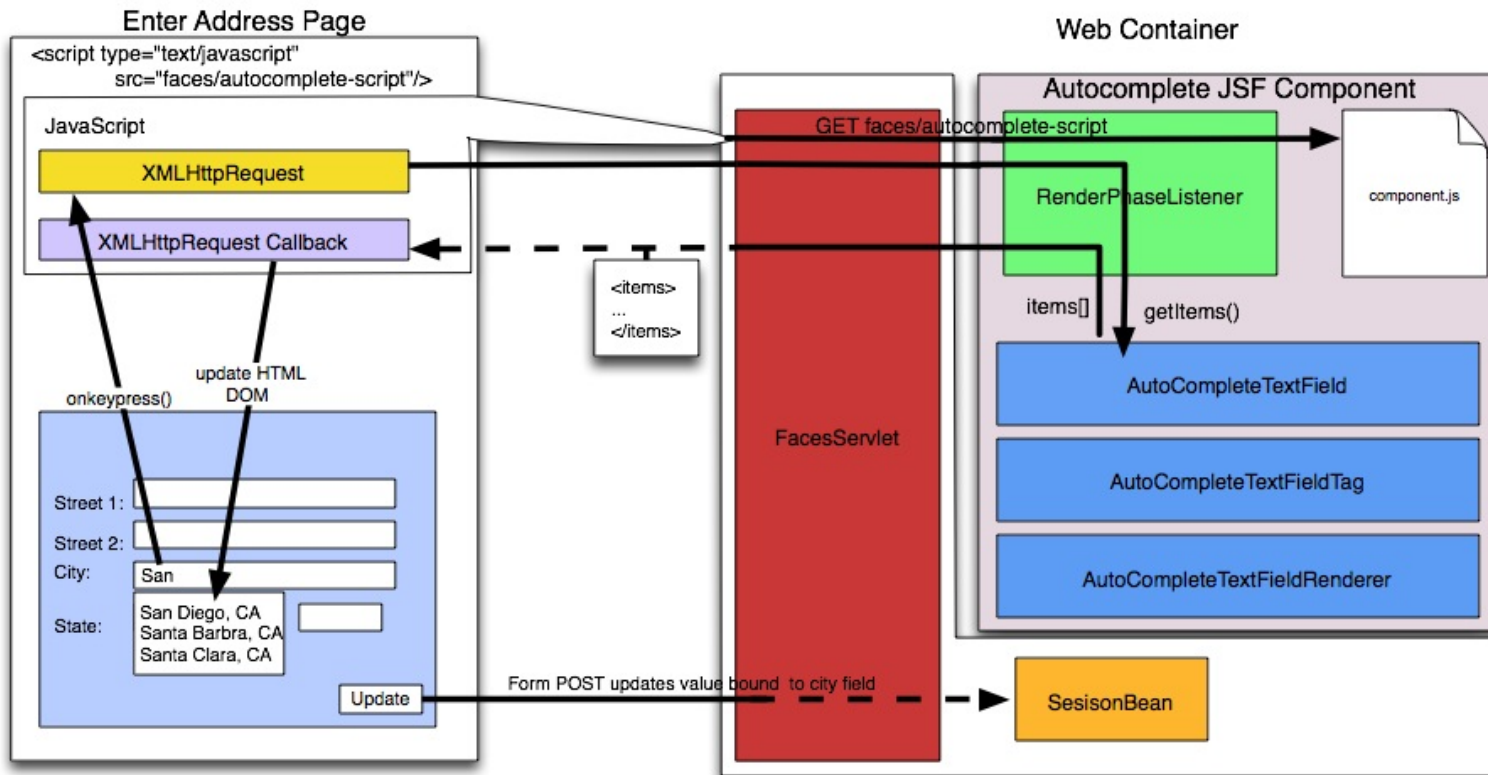
Tagging

Tagging

entrepreneurship publishing technology **design** medium b
environment games **wireframe** sitemap user experience
process flow **tagging** card sort **iasummit07** design
on the box **information architecture** swimlanes rapid f
UX methods digital ethnography analytics alignment m
interaction design kano analysis **tagging** experience
faceted browse page description diagram **facets links**
miscellaneous **web 2.0** movies **adoption** emergence m

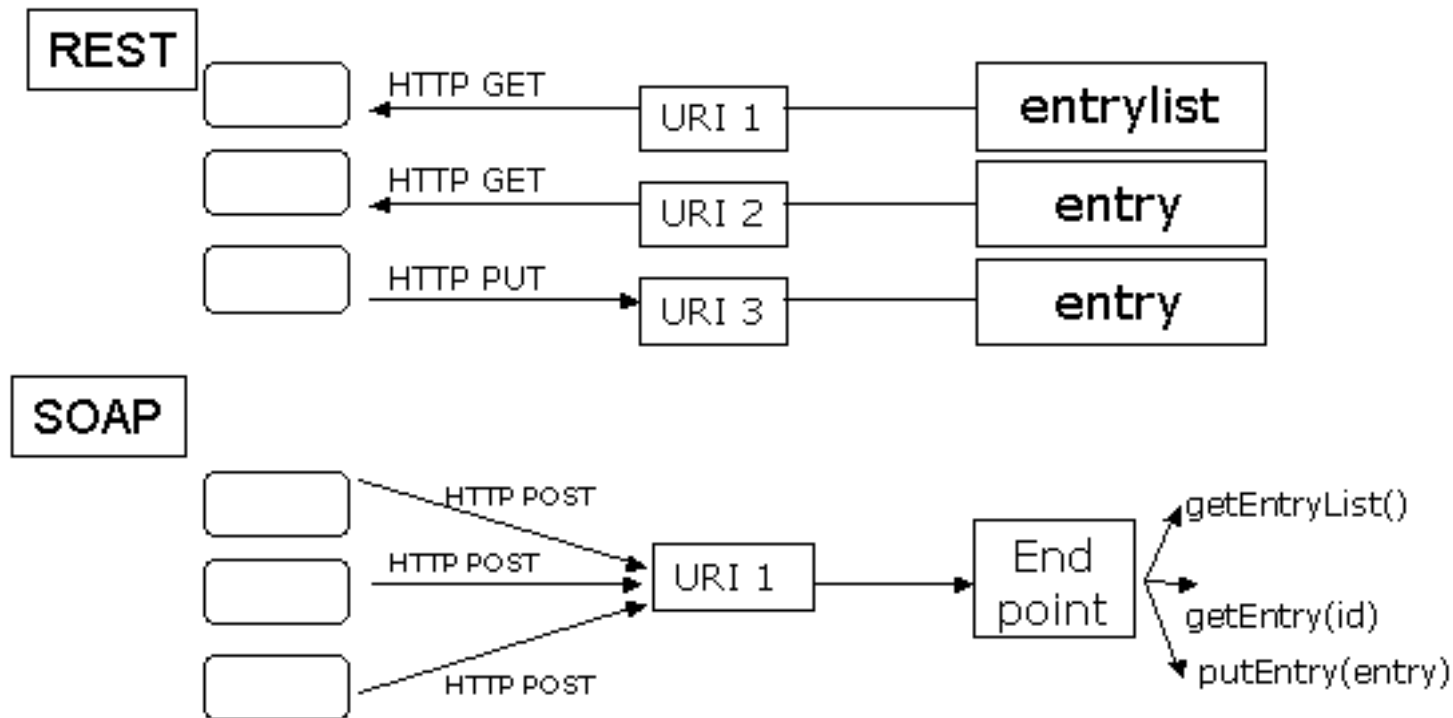
Asynchronous Javascript and XML (AJAX)

Jesse James Garrett in February 2005.



<https://bpcatalog.dev.java.net/ajax/textfield-jsf/design.html>

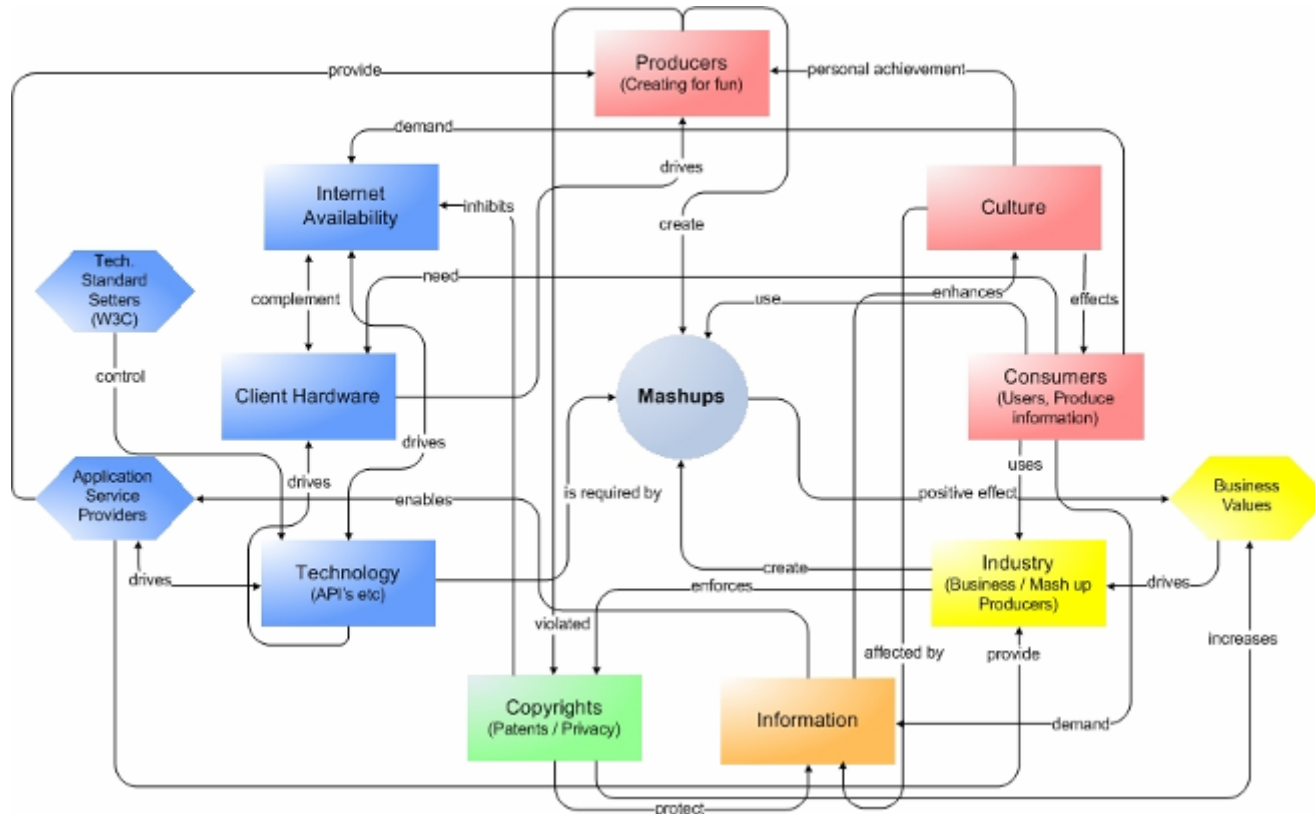
Representational State Transfer (REST)



- principles that outline how resources are defined and addressed
- looser sense: domain-specific data over HTTP

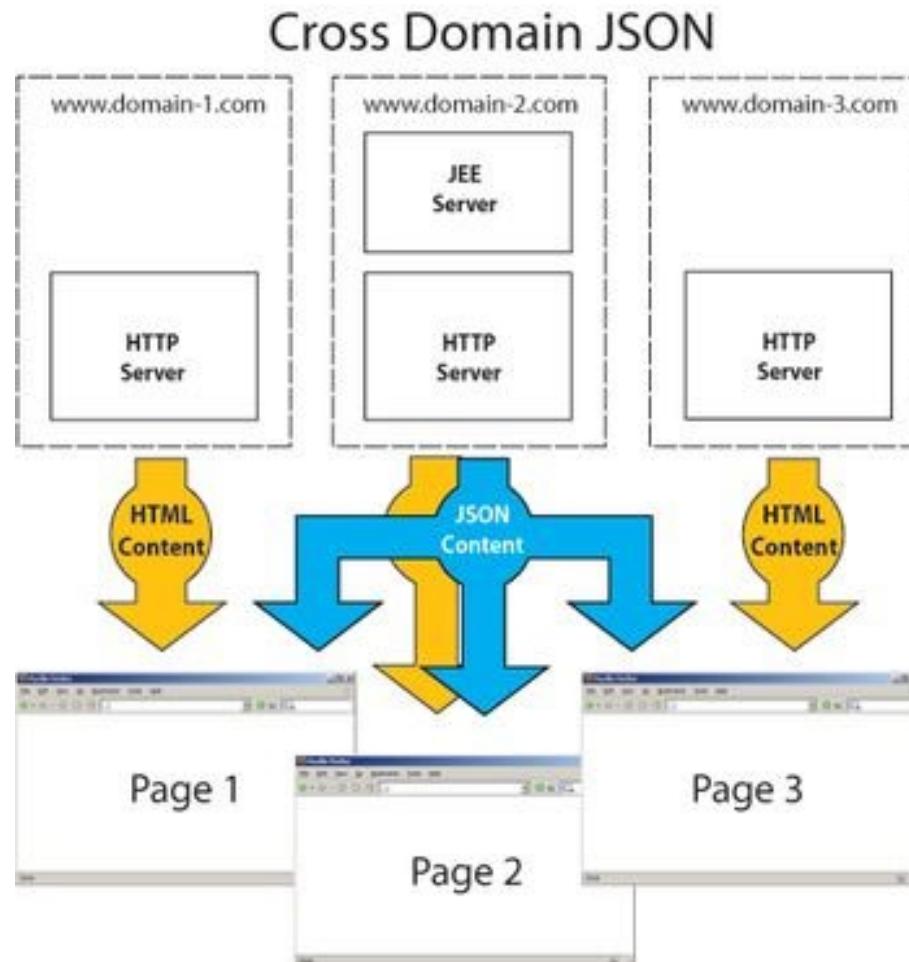
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Representational_State_Transfer
<http://itpro.nikkeibp.co.jp/article/Watcher/20060315/232492/>

Application Program Interface (API) and Mash-Ups

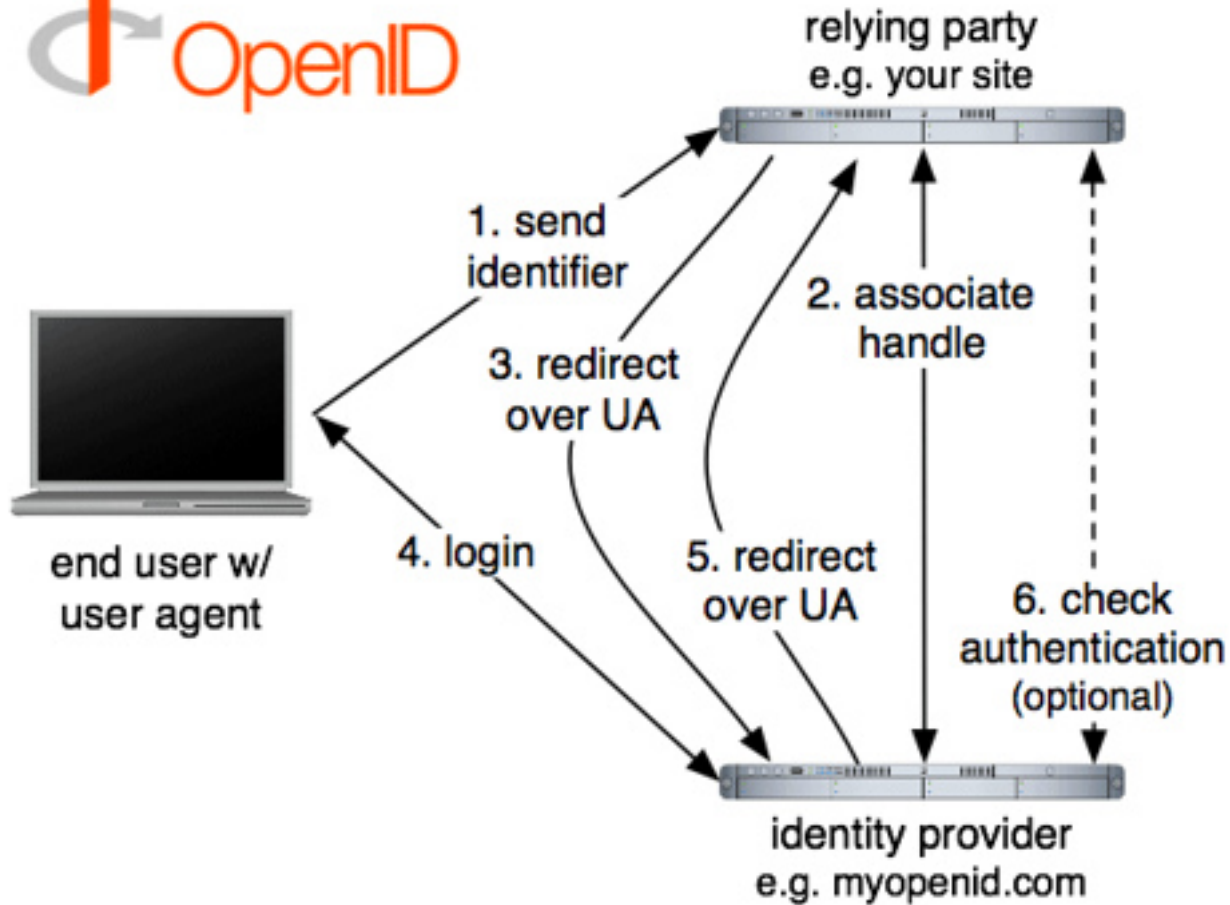


<http://scenariothinking.org/wiki/images/b/b6/MashUpSysDiagramV6.0.jpg>

Javascript Object Notation (JSON)



OpenID



Thanks!



<http://www.downes.ca>