

The logo for ARC-CARC is located in the top-left corner. It features a dark blue circular background with a white arc on the left side. Inside the circle, there is a red flame-like shape at the bottom and a white starburst at the top. The text "ARC-CARC" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font at the top of the circle.

ARC-CARC

Institute for
Information
Technology

Providing Learning in Social Networks

Stephen Downes

April 16, 2009



1. Context

Context

Games & Simulations

✧ Games and simulations are terrific



Context

Games & Simulations

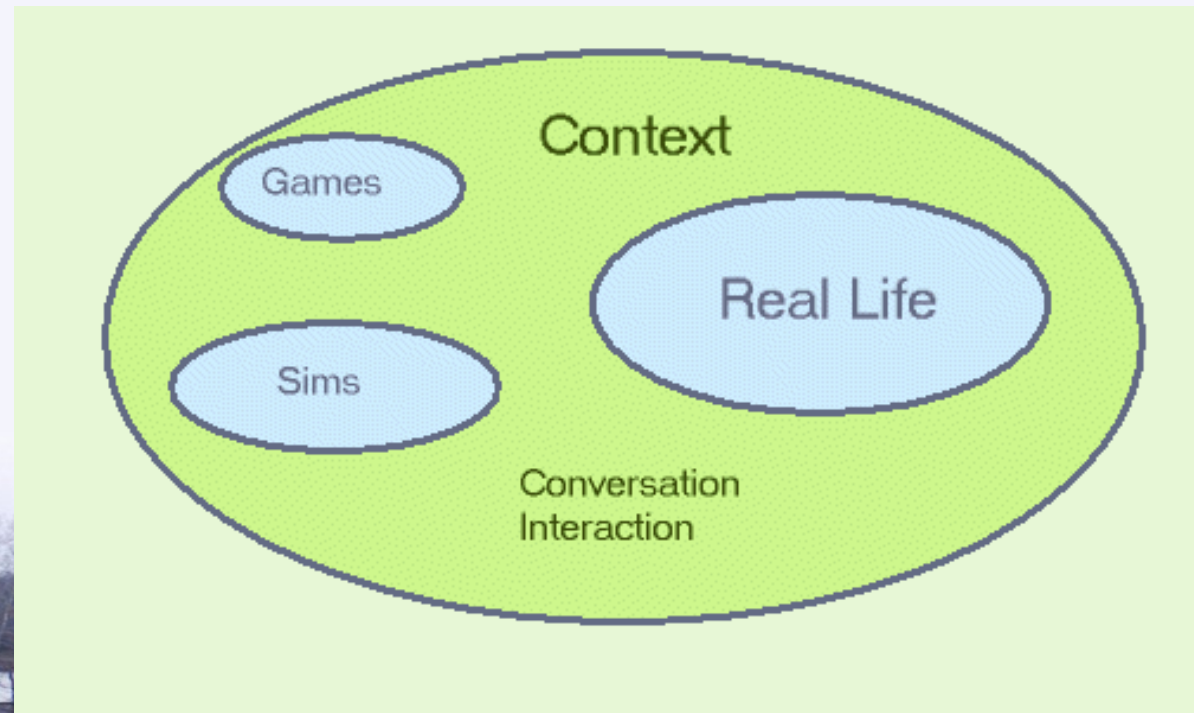
- ✧ Benefits: they create *environments* and are therefore immersive and stimulating



Context

Games & Simulations

- ✧ We need to situate games and simulations within the wider context



Context

Games & Simulations

- ✧ However, they need to be planned and designed in advance

Context



Unknown Unknowns

✧ Jollymore: we educate for the unknowns



Context

Unknown Unknowns

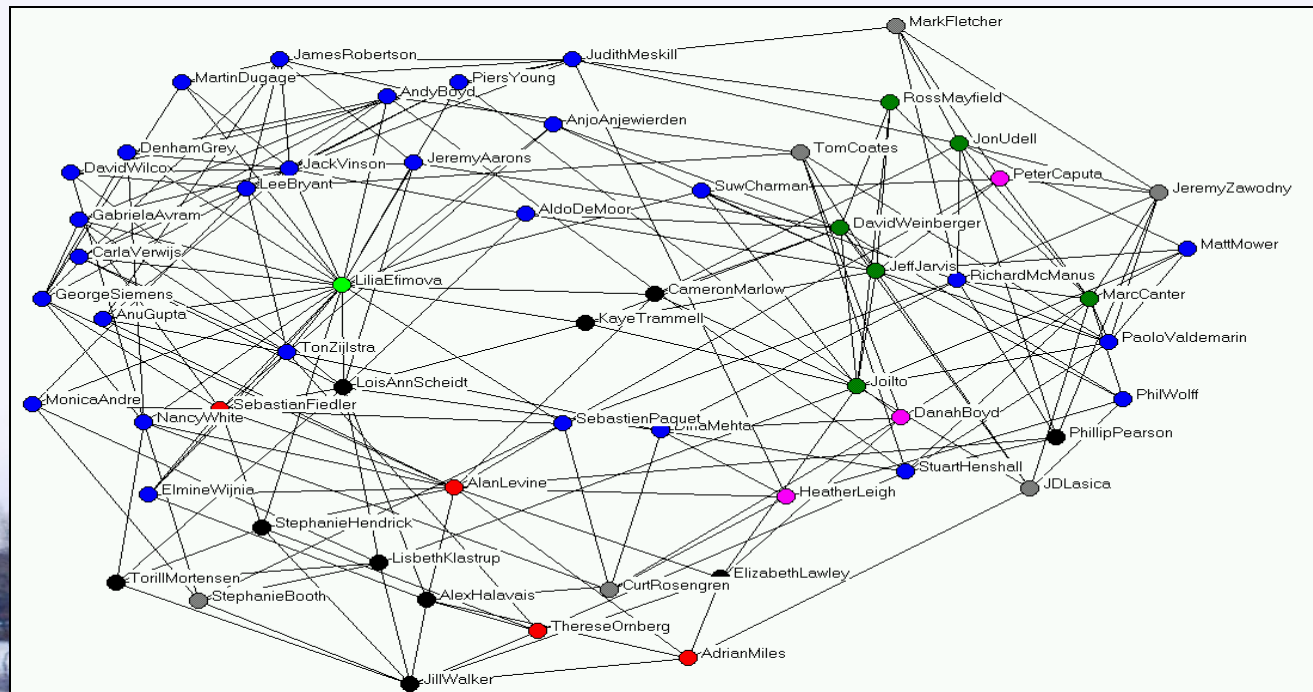
- ✧ Haines: we need to understand what makes people tick these days

Context



Learning Networks

✧ Partially, the idea is to distribute, to make decisions in the field



Context

Learning Networks

- ✧ But critically, the idea is to create a learning system that *learns*



Context

Learning Networks

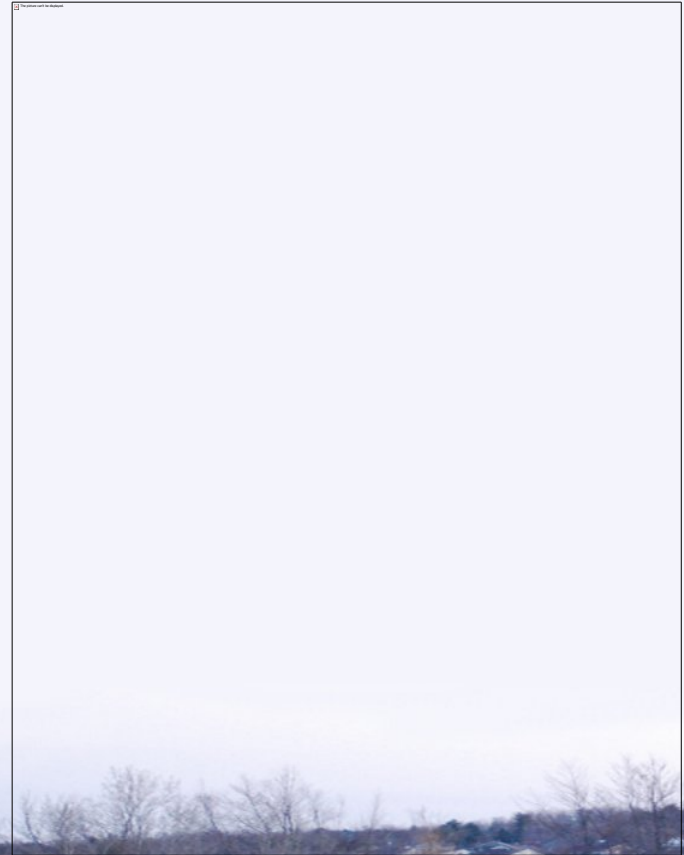
- ✧ Because, often, we don't *know* what we want to teach



Context

Company Command

- ✧ Knowledge exists in the minds of the members or participants



Context

Company Command

- ✧ The need for content and support emerges from the conversations



Context

Drupal

- ✧ Is an open source content management system



Drupal

- ✧ Supports individual accounts, pages, conversations, and much more



E-Learning 2.0

- ✧ Is the application of social networking and web-based software to learning

<http://www.ukp.tu-darmstadt.de/home/e-nlp/>

Context

E-Learning 2.0

- ✧ Represents a gradual shift to decentralization and linking between members

Context

<http://www.cre-elearning.tu-darmstadt.de/>

- ✧ Combines content management and social networking



✧ Enables content import / export



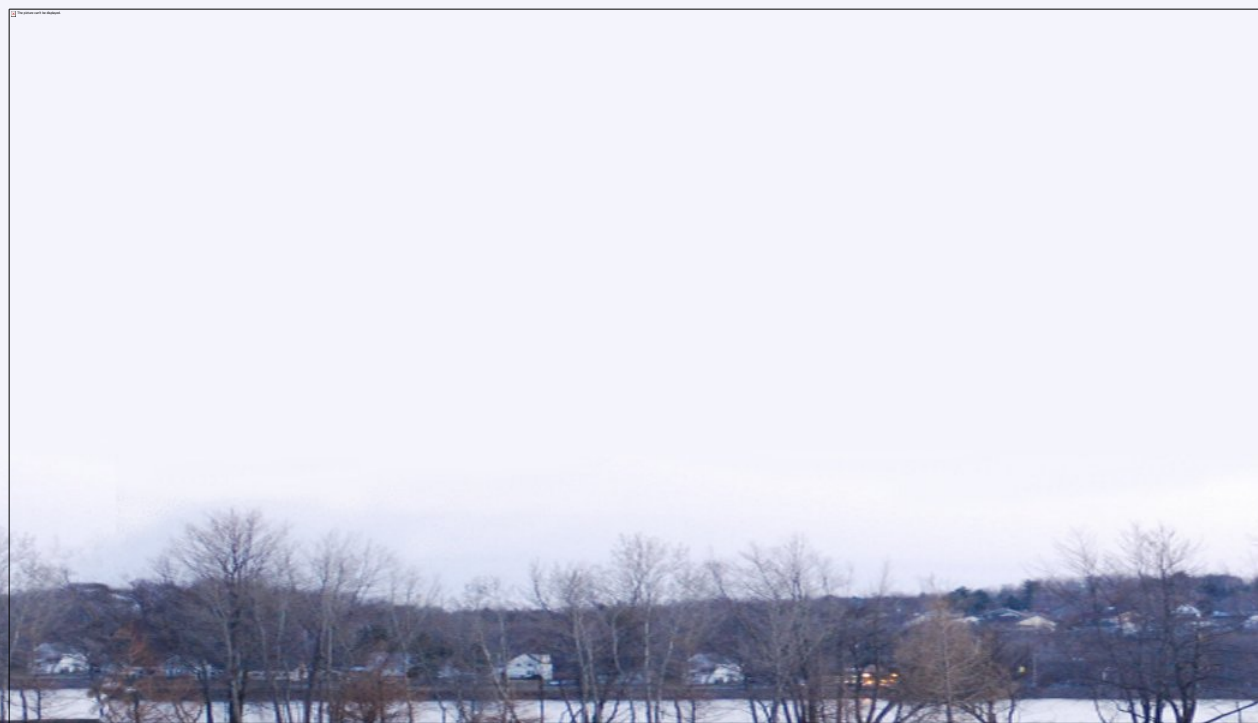
Context

2. *Current*

Current

The Complex Internet Environment

- ✧ Not just destination websites and communities (not the Net.Gain model)



Current

The Complex Internet Environment

- ✧ Not the web services (choreographed) model either



Current

<http://www.developer.com/services/article.php/1550461>

The Complex Internet Environment

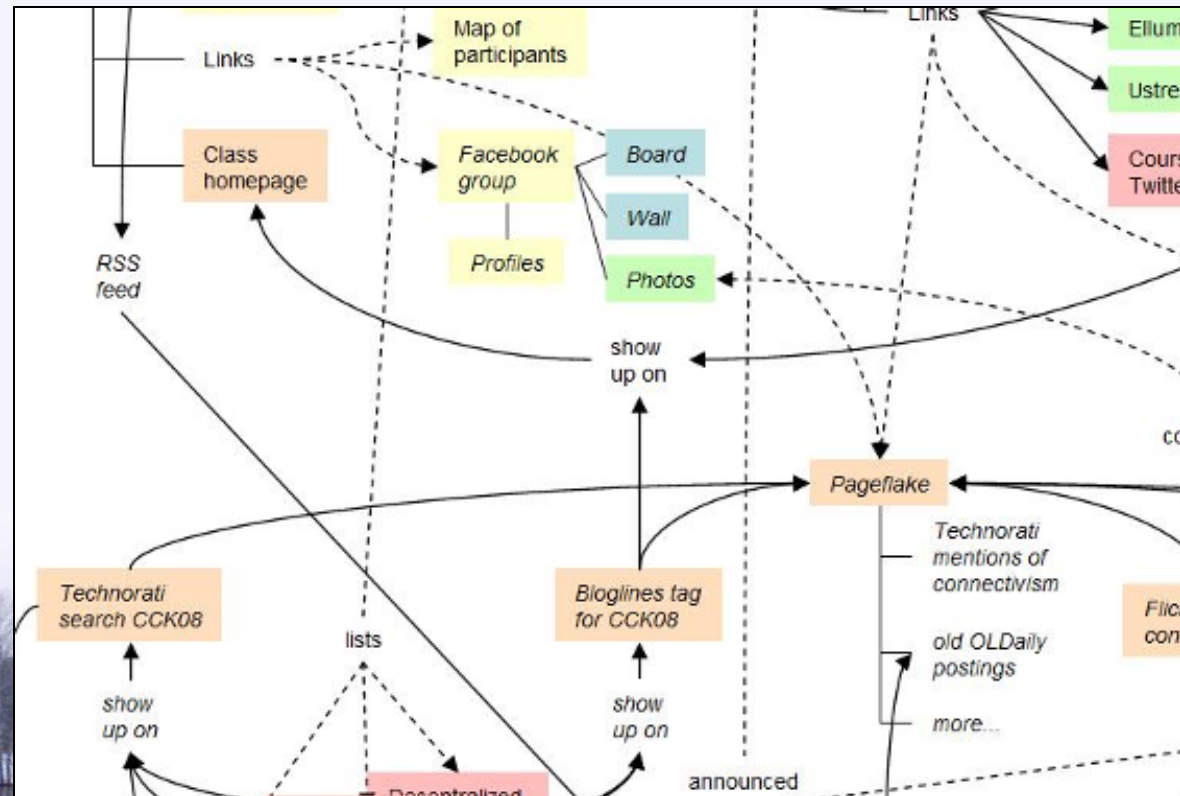
- ✧ People have multiple 'home pages' - blogs, Twitter, YouTube, Flickr...



Current

Connectivism Course

✧ Model: open, distributed online course



Current

Connectivism Course

✧ 2200 students participated in fall 2008



Current

Connectivism Course

✧ Participants essentially *created* a network

CONNECTIVISM & CONNECTIVE KNOWLEDGE
a rather large open online course...

HOME THE DAILY WIKI ABOUT AGGREGATIONS READINGS SIGNING UP

List feeds

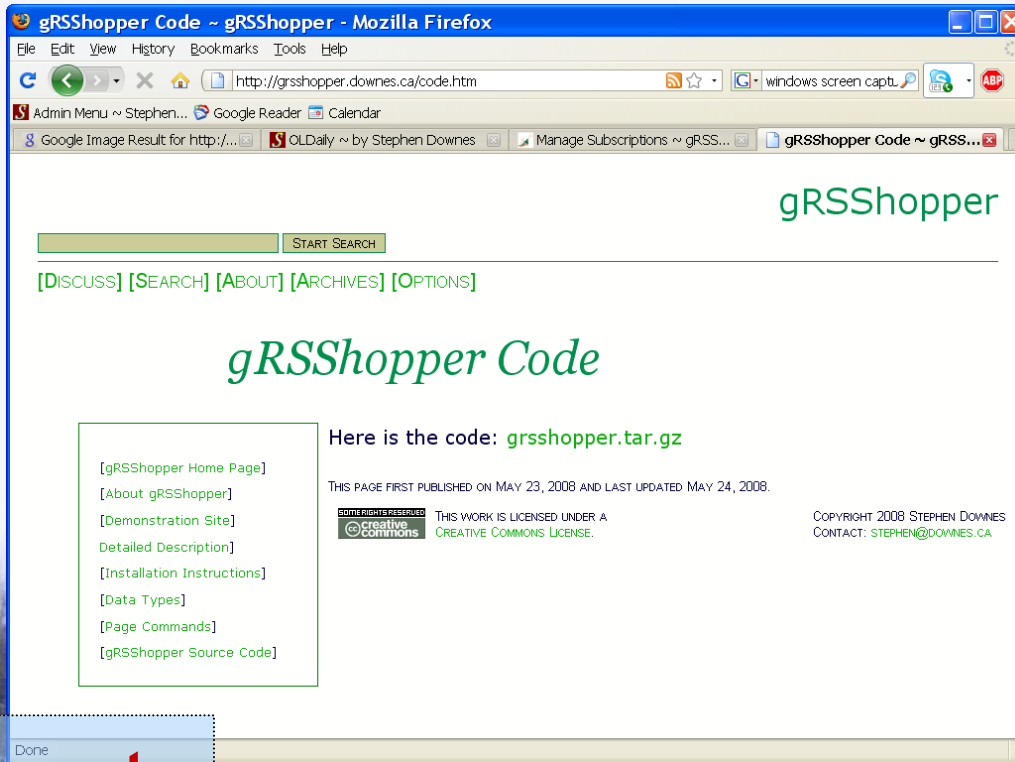
[ADMIN]

<p>[New] [List] Author [New] [List] Box [New] [List] Cite [New] [List] Event [New] [List] Feed [New] [List] File [New] [List] Journal [New] [List] Link [New] [List] Optlist [New] [List] Mapping [New] [List] Page [New] [List] Person [New] [List] Post [New] [List] Presentation [New] [List] Publication [New] [List] Project [New] [List] Task [New] [List] Template [New] [List] Theme [New] [List] Topic [New] [List] View</p>	<p>Listing 0 to 1000 of 106 feeds [Harvest][Retire] Links: ActionsFLE en formation (category) [Approve] Links: Aggregator Blog (category) [Approve] Links: Al d'Áa (category) [Approve] Links: Alvin's Educational Technology Blog (category) [Approve] Links: An Education and Technology Blog (category) [Approve] Links: An Oxonian's Learning Journey (category) [Approve] Links: Beespace (category) [Approve] Links: blog.puntopanto.it, bloggers she wrote (category) [Approve] Links: Bradley Shoebottom Blog (category) [Approve] Links: Brett Powell CCK (category) [Approve] Links: Buthaina-Connect08 (category) [Approve] Links: CCK-No8 (category) [Approve] Links: cck08 - learning (category) [Approve] Links: CCK08-Viplav Baxi (category) [Approve] Links: Classroomblogging.com (category) [Approve] Links: Coalesce (category) [Approve] Links: Concetta Gottlieb's Blog (category) [Approve] Links: Connecting Online (category) [Approve] Links: Connective Knowledge Weblog (category) [Approve] Links: Connectivism & Connective Knowledge (edubloggers) [Approve] Links: Connectivism and Connective Knowledge (category) [Approve] Links: Connectivism by the Nile (category)</p>
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Current

gRSShopper

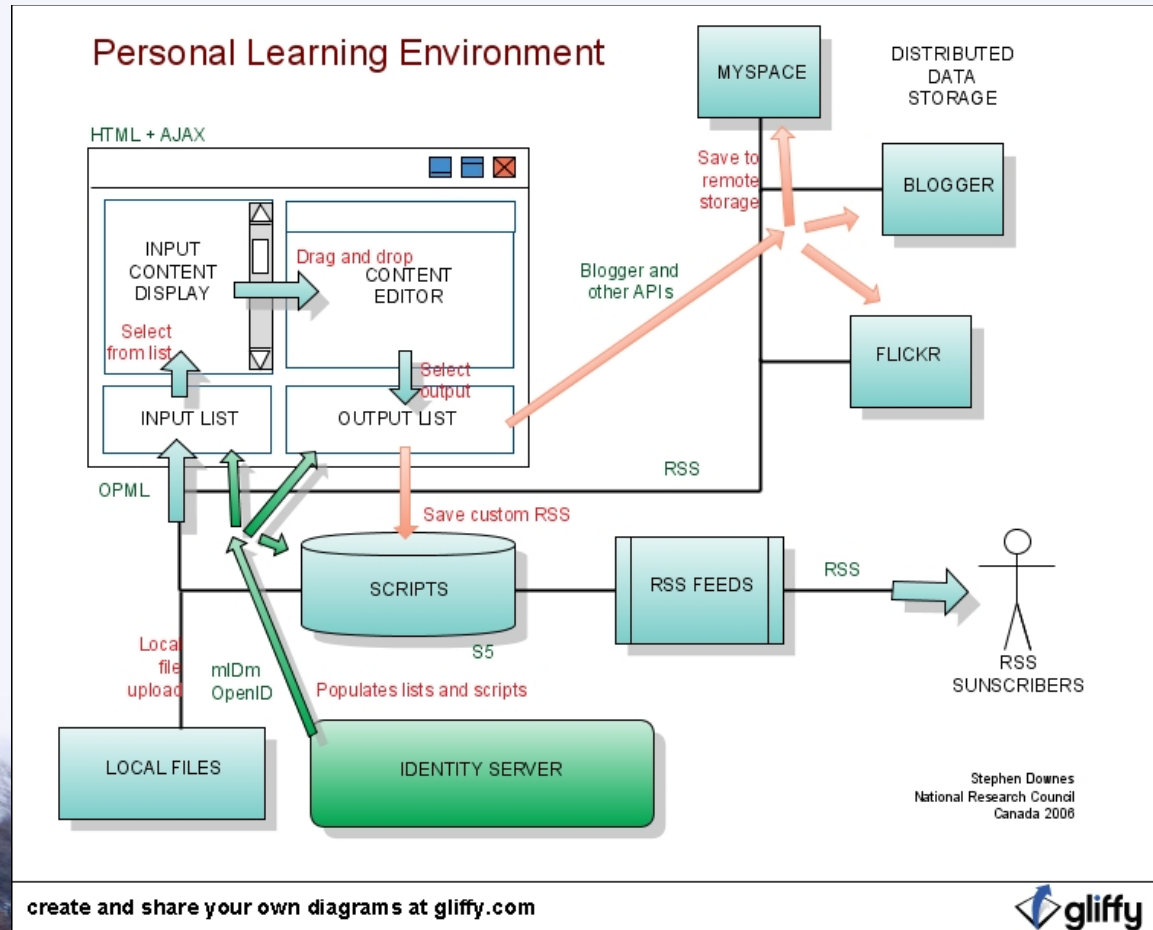
✧ Software support for CCK08, OLDaily



Current

gRSShopper

✧ Prototype Personal Learning Environment as a centre for learning



Stephen Downes
National Research Council
Canada 2006

✧ Also useful as a teaching platform

Connectivism & Connective Knowledge

[\[Home\]](#) [\[The Daily\]](#) [\[Wiki\]](#) [\[About\]](#) [\[Aggregations\]](#) [\[Readings\]](#)

The Daily

September 9, 2008

Highlighted Resources

[Time Change for Wednesday Session](#)

Important: We've made a change to our Wednesday (in our part of the world) schedule. The illuminate session will be held at 11:00 am CST (see [conversion here](#)). The event will be held in illuminate ([link here](#)). Sorry about this last minute change. If the time doesn't work for those in Australia and Asia, please let me know (gziemans@elearnspace.org) and we can try and arrange a smaller discussion group at a different time). [CCK08](#), , September 9, 2008 [\[Link\]](#) [\[Tags: none\]](#) [\[Comment\]](#)

[Connections, Learning, and Ptolomeus \(CCK08-W1\)](#)

Nice post on the question of whether we 'grow' or 'build' new learning. Diego Leal cites John Medina's book *Brain Rules* (I'll have to get that one) on learning: "No defined structure, no progressive storage. Just the creation and recreation of connections between neurons. So, the process seems to be closer to something growing out (or expanding?) than to something being built." Here's the [Brain Rules](#) website, if you want to have a look. [Diego Leal](#), [.Edu.Co.Blog](#), September 9, 2008 [\[Link\]](#) [\[Tags: none\]](#) [\[Comment\]](#)

✧ Content aggregation and organization

[ADMIN]

[New] [List] Author **title:A Day In The Life -> journal**
 [New] [List] Box
 [New] [List] Cite
 [New] [List] Event
 [New] [List] Feed
 [New] [List] File
 [New] [List] Journal
 [New] [List] Link
 [New] [List] Optlist
 [New] [List] Mapping
 [New] [List] Page
 [New] [List] Person
 [New] [List] Post
 [New] [List] Presentation
 [New] [List] Publication
 [New] [List] Project
 [New] [List] Task
 [New] [List] Template
 [New] [List] Theme
 [New] [List] Topic
 [New] [List] View

A *mapping* is a way to direct where you want harvested data to be stored. The mapping source is always a feed, while the mapping destination is always a database table.

Source

Either...

<input type="radio"/> Specific Feed:	ACRLog	[Help]
<input type="radio"/> Feed Type	Atom	[Help]
<input type="radio"/> Feed Fields	title	[Help]
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Value Pair	title:A Day In The Life	[Help]

Destination

Select a destination table: journal

link:

Map Table Elements

Source		Destination: journal
hits	---->	<input type="text"/>
cites	---->	<input type="text"/>

Current

Notes on Evaluation

- ✧ Evaluation of competence, contribution, and not memory



<http://www.mosaic-net-intl.ca/pehain15.shtml>

Current

Notes on Evaluation

✧ Distributed Evaluation



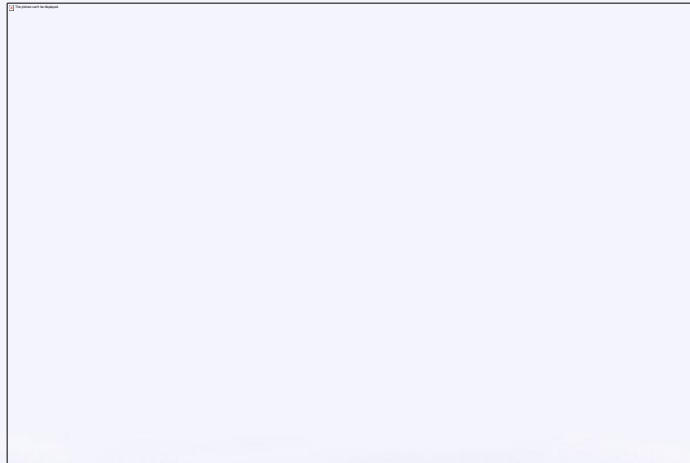
Current

3. Future

Future

Serialized Feeds

- ✧ Purpose - to simplify content submission to distributed courses



Future

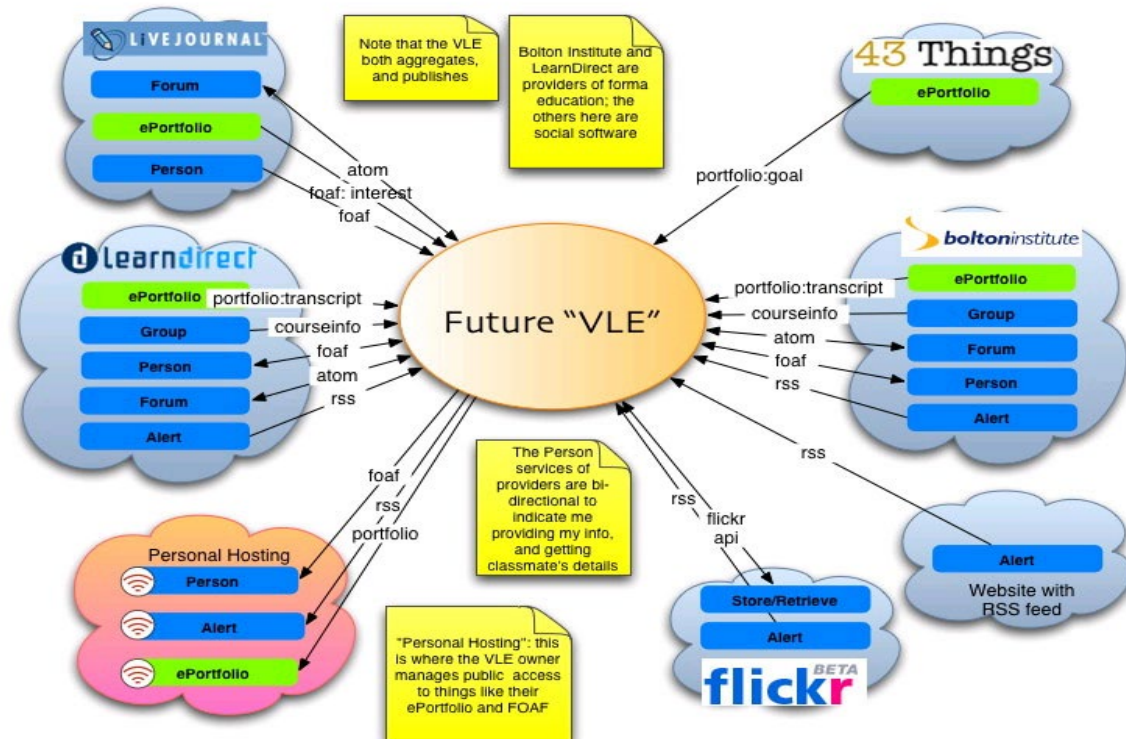
Serialized Feeds

- ✧ Method: predefined and times content releases into email and RSS content stream



Future

✧ Upcoming NRC development project



Future

- ✧ Major stages: aggregate, remix, repurpose, feed forward

Future

- ✧ Creates a learning *network* and not merely a management system



A World of Objects

- ✧ The point where PLEs and Envrionments meet

Future

A World of Objects

- ✧ The original idea from mudlibs - object orientation, inheritance

Future

State Based Learning Design

- ✧ The old theory - learning objects just static content, organized as though it were a book or manual

<http://www.irrodl.org/index.php/irrodl/article/viewArticle/609/1166>



Future

State Based Learning Design

- ✧ The new theory - learning objects are
(a) words in a conversation (b) entities
in an environment



<http://www.simskill.com/assets/screenGrabs.jpg>

Future

Openness

✧ The question of security always arises

Future

Openness

✧ My belief: walls do not create security



Openness

- ✧ Security systems create a *point of weakness* - security is robustness *even when* secrecy is breached

Future

✧ Stephen Downes

✧ <http://www.downes.ca>



Author