Predicting Opportunities and Challenges: Forward-Thinking in our Field

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BIG PICTURE INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY: MODELS FOR PLANNING, PILOTING, PROMOTING, PARTNERING & PREDICTING

EDUCAUSE 2009 PRE-CONFERENCE

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“Snow Card” SWOC Activity

What are the strengths, weaknesses, challenges of current learning management systems and what are the opportunities for the next generation learning management system?

• In general, this exercise is an example of:
  • an active learning strategy for large groups
  • an activity that lends itself to strategic thinking
  • an opportunity for directors to model effective pedagogy

• As a closing activity for this venue, it:
  • illustrates the power of partnering
  • generates good conversation
  • results in touchable take-aways
Strengths of Current LMS Systems

- Brainstorm 5
- Write 1 example per sticky note
Weaknesses of Current LMS Systems

- Brainstorm 5
- Write 1 example per sticky note
Challenges of Current LMS Systems

• Brainstorm 5
• Write 1 example per sticky note
Opportunities of Future LMS Systems

• Brainstorm 5
• Write 1 example per sticky note
POST YOUR THOUGHTS

• Walk around the room and post your thoughts on the appropriate board:
  • Strengths on strengths board
  • Weaknesses on weaknesses board
  • Challenges on challenges board
  • Opportunities on opportunities board
CATEGORIZE YOUR TOPIC NOTES

- Work together to group common ideas
- Determine titles for the common themes and label them
“Snow Card” SWOC Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current strengths:</th>
<th>Current weaknesses:</th>
<th>Current challenges:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Ease of use</td>
<td>• Support</td>
<td>• Support and training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Course tools and features</td>
<td>• Cost</td>
<td>• Adoption and LMS selection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Integration with other tools</td>
<td>• Interface &amp; functionality</td>
<td>• Cost</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Opportunities for the next generation LMS:

- Retention and reporting -- metrics; revenues
- Social networking -- integrate with web 2.0, student engagement; beyond traditional classroom (mobility)
- Integration possibilities -- get all the great web 2.0 tools to work together; better SIS integration
- Rethink/rebuild curriculum -- don't just import the old stuff
- Campus wide adoption -- wider and smarter use by faculty; SIS use; library use; learning center
“Snow Card” SWOC Outcomes

Next LMS needs to be much more than an academic platform.

It must be:
   • mobile-device friendly
   • integrated with student information services
   • richened with fully functional web tools
   • enhanced by social capabilities
   • more flexible and customizable

While not losing:
   • ease of use
   • course tools