

# ***Going Live!***

***Building academic capacity in blended learning using web-conferencing technologies***

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# Overview

- A perfect solar storm at the start of 2010:
  - Improving student learning outcomes by building academic capacity
  - Fostering blended learning approaches
  - Availability of Elluminate *Live!* for learning and teaching
- This led to the maiden voyage of...

# *Your feedback required!* @ascilite #rcook

How can we prompt better use of our resources and increase attendance at LDL?

How can we encourage the adoption of ideas and strategies demonstrated in LDL?

How can we foster enduring communities of practice around blended learning?

# *Establishing a needs matrix*



What are the drivers (and inhibitors) of change and development around blended learning at universities for key stakeholders?

The truth is out there!

# *Establishing a needs matrix*



## **Student needs**

- Anytime, anywhere learning
- What I need to succeed, when I decide I need it.
- Real connection with my peers and teachers
- An engaging learning experience
- Learning efficiency

# *Establishing a needs matrix*

## Staff needs



- Professional support, when I decide I need it.
- Guidelines for the use of educational technologies (e.g. social media, mobile learning)
- Opportunities to experience new approaches and learn from peers
- Be able to incorporate changes into existing workflows and workloads with relative ease

# *Establishing a needs matrix*

## **Institution needs**

- “to provide outstanding learning environments and programs that lead to excellent outcomes for graduates, enabling them to work in and guide a diverse and complex world characterised by increasing change” (QUT Blueprint 3)



# *Background to the team and its purpose*

## **STARFLEET COMMAND STRUCTURE**

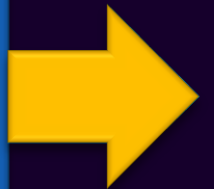
QUT Division of Technology,  
Information and Learning  
Support



Department of  
eLearning Services  
(centralised)



Learning Design team  
(8 Learning Designers)



Want to know more?

<http://www.els.qut.edu.au/blendedlearning/learningdesign/>

# *Background to the team and its purpose*

## **STARFLEET NETWORK STRUCTURE (DETAIL)**

### **CENTRAL**

Learning Design team  
(8 Learning Designers)



Other departments and  
divisions

### **FACULTY**

Assistant Deans T&L

Faculty innovators,  
champions, newbies,  
stalwarts

Professional staff  
L & T Developers



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# *Your orders, Captain?*

Communication  
and dissemination

Community  
engagement

Admin procedures



Pedagogical  
approaches

Session topics

Evaluation

# Communication and dissemination



## Well-populated and maintained program homepage:

- Blackboard Community Site contains the current semester's calendar of LDL events and recordings to all previous sessions.



## Regular communications establish program profile:

- Working with each faculty's ADT&L, learning designers send weekly emails advertising the upcoming session and providing link to previous session's recording.



## BUT! The tyranny of the trash folder:

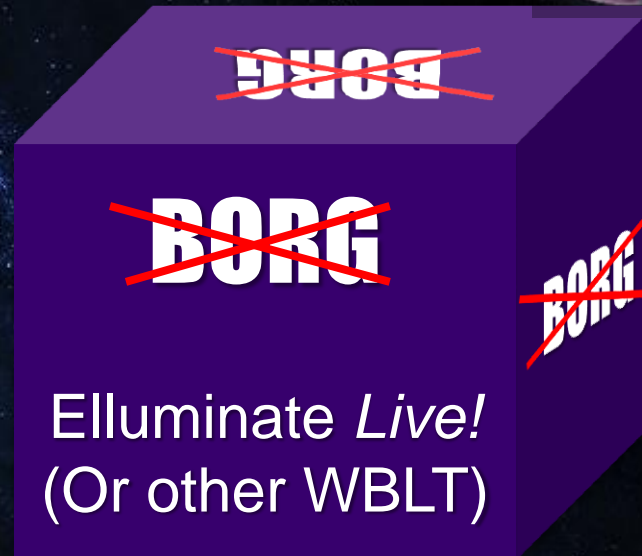
- Staff are busy, and get lots of official emails – sometimes our emails get junked unread!
- In-faculty promotions and networking strategies work to solve this.

# *Pedagogical approaches*

Facilitate discussions of many blended learning strategies and tools

Provide on-demand opportunities to access resources

Communicate relative advantage and give opportunities to trial in a safe environment



Strongly advertise support available

Create an interactive learning experience with staff experiencing student perspective

Model good practice use of Elluminate *Live!*

# Community engagement

- Learning designers leverage their faculty networks to source LDL presenters and target session content to identified staff needs.



I can see your faculty has lots of external students: our next session will be on online engagement, and we'll showcase what innovators across the uni are doing.

Great stuff. And we have some innovators of our own too!

PLANET HEALTH

# *Session topics: Some of our greatest hits*

- Introduction to Elluminate *Live!*
- Site design: taking curriculum design online
- Using PowerPoint effectively in your teaching
- Spring clean your Blackboard site
- Top tips for Blackboard
- Blackboard Upgrade 9.1
- Introducing Blackboard Collaborate

# *Administrative procedures*

- Paperwork is a drag, but without it, we can't fly! Effective admin procedures make LDL possible.

We use:



Alesco for recording staff participation



A wiki to maintain procedures, resources and records



Blackboard site architecture for front-facing admin



Learning Designer admin management +  
admin staff time

# Evaluation

## Using data from:

- ✦ Attendance and download records
- ✦ Post-session survey instrument
- ✦ Feedback blog
- ✦ Informal feedback



## Answers questions:

- ✦ How are we travelling?
- ✦ Are we moving forward?
- ✦ Do we need to change course?
- ✦ Should we be going faster or slower?
- ✦ Are we responsive enough to changing conditions?

SELF DESTRUCT SEQUENCE COMPLETE: Y

*So what does it look like?*

**Audio-visuals loading, please stand by...**



## Viewing a Learning Design Live recording

# Conclusions: what have we learned?

## Benefits:

- Participants = increased use and “domestication” of Elluminate *Live!* amongst staff.
- LD Team = has fostered collaboration; drawn on strengths of team members; developed skills; informed planning
- Institution = has informed blended learning policy and guidelines

## Challenges:

- Effective communication and maintaining engagement
- Designing for synchronous and asynchronous learning
- Selecting relevant topics and deciding which topics to revisit

# *Where to next? To infinity and beyond!*

- Identifying and investigating more specific impacts of LDL on student learning.
- Continuing to link LDL to other blended learning events and projects
- Continue to respond to changing stakeholder needs
- Future focus more on blended uses of Elluminate and face-to-face networking opportunities.
- Potential for running outward facing sessions and working with external experts and other institutions.

**Want to know more? Interested in sharing your expertise?**

**Contact us! [learningdesign@qut.edu.au](mailto:learningdesign@qut.edu.au)**

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