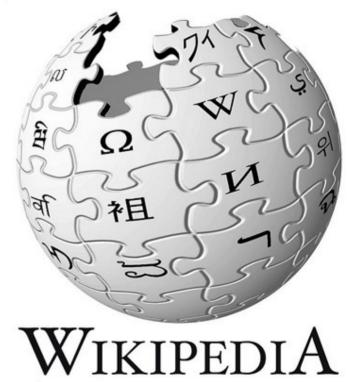# Personal Learning Environments, Personal Development Planning & Lifelong Learning

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Students are transients within the university system, most staying for three years.

Google's share of all searches is over 87% and continues to climb (*ref*)

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Stepwise creation of a personal learning environment (PLE) based on freely available tools such as blogs, wikis, social bookmarking and online office suites enables students to use Web 2.0 for formal learning.

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VLE

A software system designed to help teachers by facilitating the management of educational courses for their students, especially by helping teachers and learners with course administration.

(*ref*)

PLE

Systems that help learners take control of and manage their own learning. This includes providing support for learners to set their own learning goals, manage their learning, manage both content and process, and communicate with others in the process of learning.

(*ref*)

CONTROL

LEARNING

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VLE	PLE
Authentication	**Current tools**
(*OpenID*, *Shibboleth*, *OpenSocial* ?)	*(video conferencing, social ne collaborative writing, etc)*
Convenience *(wrapper)*	**Better tools**
Support	**Personalization**
	(choice: staff and students)
Reliability (?)	**Cost**
	Avoids software sedimentation -
Student progress	*small pieces loosely joined*
	Disintermediation -
	cutting out the middleman

(Martin Weller)

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VLE

Inflexible

Walled Garden

Closed

Control

Excludes

Expensive

(how much does your institution spend on its VLE and what could you buy with that money?)

PLE

Flexibility:
- – Tiny: limited to a project
- – Elongated: lifelong
- – Deep: mental models
- – Infinite: reflective

Not a content management system

Engagement

Provides context and meaning

Cost

*(**Tom Haskins**)*

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Encouraging students to develop their own personal learning, research and networking space, will equip them with sustainable lifelong learning skills that can persist beyond their university careers and the confines of institutional learning management systems.

http://pleuol.wetpaint.com/

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ePortfolios

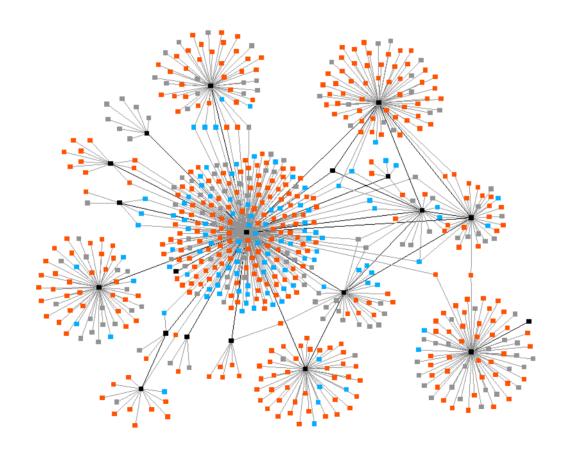http://joannahughes.wetpaint.com/

Blackboard, PebblePad

http://joannahughes.wordpress.com/

Centre for Bioscience Departmental Teaching Enhancement Scheme

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Small world networks

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