



A Question of Innovation:

Open-Source Alternatives to
Learning Management
Systems

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About Us



**About this
presentation**

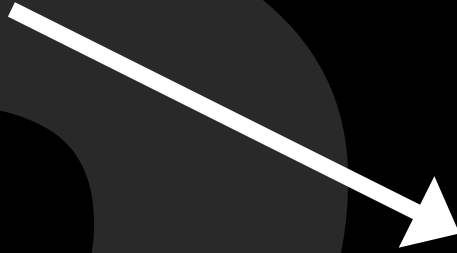


LMS?

Web Course in a Box

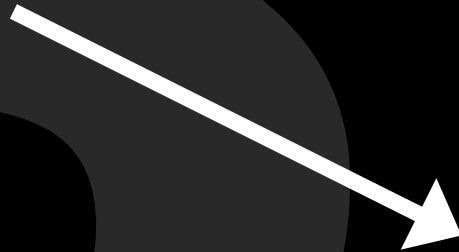


Web Course in a Box

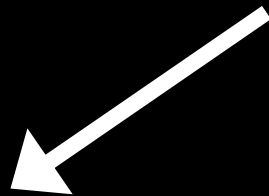


**Blackboard/
Course Info**

Web Course in a Box



**Blackboard/
Course Info**



**Blackboard Basic Edition
(version 6.3.1.505)**



LMS

Advantages



**Course
Administration**



Learning Tools



E-Commerce Tools



LMS


Disadvantages




**Closed
System**



Proprietary Database Structure



**Extending
capabilities =
additional
dollars**



**Money spent on
Blackboard is
equated to
money spent on
teaching and
learning.**




Course Silos



**Students
don't own their
content**



From D.C.... At Flickr



**“This is all I
have to work
with.”**



Question of Innovation



**Are we leading
or being led?**



IS the
enterprise LMS
innovating?



**What is our
responsibility
for innovation?**



**An Open
Source
Approach**



**“Best of
Breed”**



**Innovation
from many**



Ideas can come
from the
community –
not just the
higher ed
perspectives



**Opportunity
for
partnerships**



RSS

Glue



Open Source challenges



**“Constant
Beta”**



**Tools may
break**



**Services
may
disappear**



**“Free as in
Freedom” not
“Free as in Free
Beer”**



**Challenges in
connecting
tools
together.**



Server administration

A Specific Example

Project Background: First-Year Seminar



A Specific Example

Project Background: An Enthusiastic Faculty Partner




A Specific Example

Project Background: The “Blank-Slate” Advantage



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(by permission)

Basic Project Goal

- 
- Provide a toolkit
 - of easy-to-use
 - low-cost, or open-source tools
 - to support individual & group learning.

The Toolkit



The Learning Environment

Demo:

www.stevegreenlaw.org/fsem100

The Toolkit





Ownership

Institutional

vs.

Individual

Ownership



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Web-Based

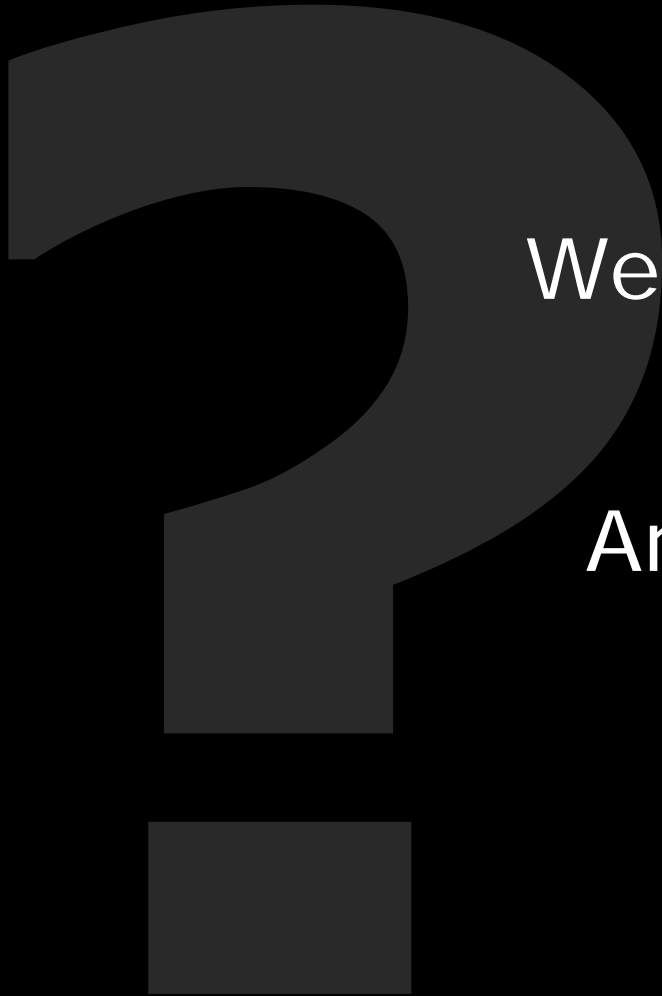


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Free

We're cheap.

And poor.



Aggregatable, "RSSy"



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Individual and Social

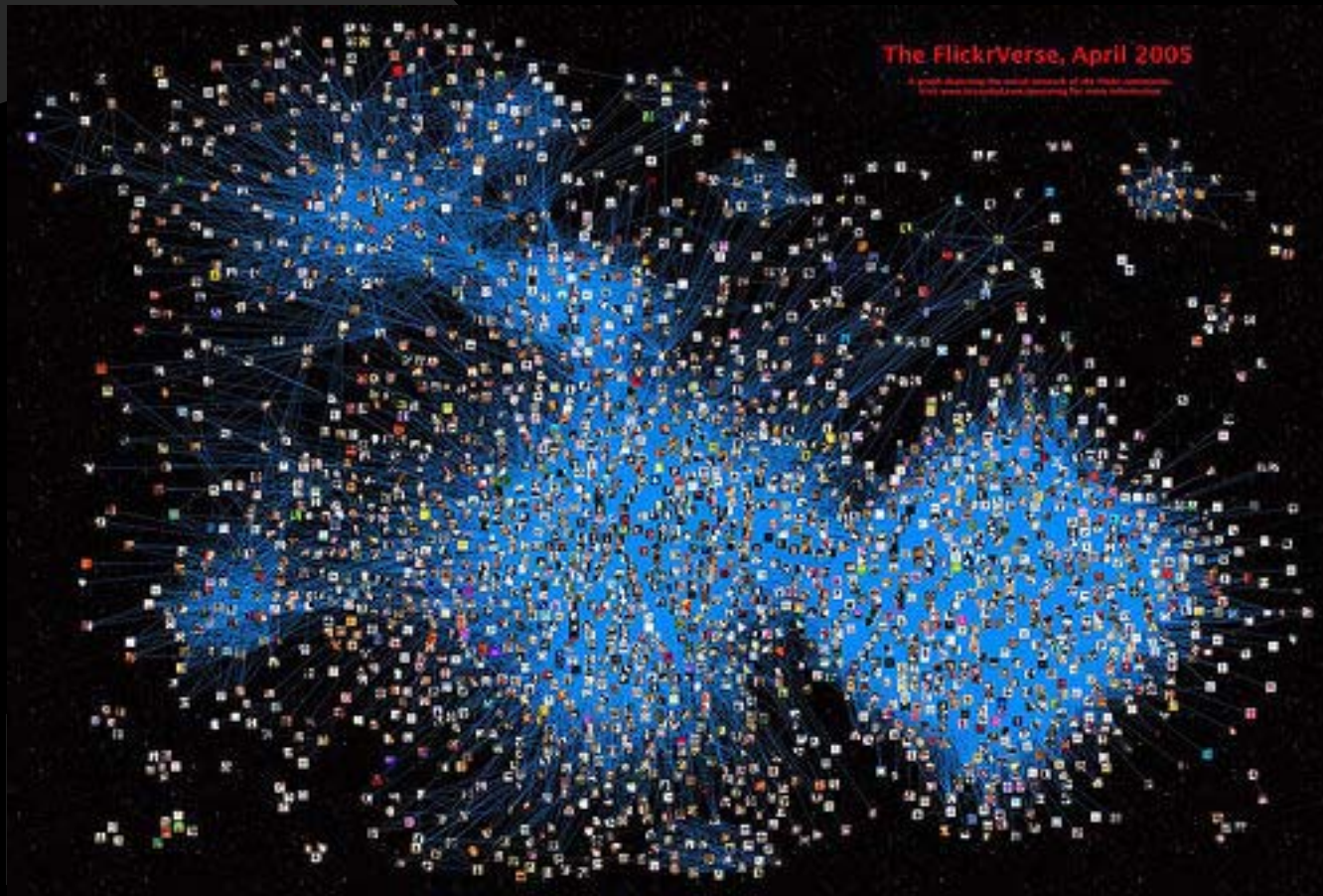


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Lessons Learned

- It is possible to build a robust toolkit for students using only free and open-source technologies
- Students are capable of navigating an environment built of loosely joined tools
- Even tech-savvy freshman need help using technology
- Different tools (like different teaching/learning approaches) appeal to different students

Most Important Lesson

- When we break free of vendor-provided solutions, we break out of comfortable, "safe" pedagogical approaches.
- In doing so make available new, innovative approaches for teaching and learning.