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Technology Design for Formal and Informal learning Spaces in the Facebook age

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There have been numerous presentations about the future of web based learning. Already for many students their lectures are on iTunesU, the unit of study is in the Cloud, the tutor on Twitter and the class on Facebook, whereas the trains are erratic and the campus a long way from home. Some believe technology is the mortal enemy of face to face learning. Leave your iPads at the door is the cry. So how can we make formal and informal learning spaces relevant, dynamic and engaging to students in the Facebook age?

The presentation will use current projects at The University of Sydney to argue that well designed IT and AV technology that is thoughtfully integrated with the learning environment and pedagogy can enhance the learning experience. The presentation will examine a new approach to learning spaces that provides students with access to the web resources they need for 21century literacy, while maintaining the spacial relationships and flexible furniture formats that support group discussion and problem based learning. New distributed AV solutions, wireless networking and collaboration software offer an opportunity to break from the rigid computer lab concepts of the past and move to truly flexible learning environments. Student laptops and mobile computing devices by themselves are not the answer. The learning space and technology solutions must also entice the student out of the cyber-shell of their individual screen and promote face to face engagement and collaboration.

The paper will present a case for easy-to-use, mobile and open technology designed educators with the tools they need to create engaging on-campus learning experiences for students that blend seamlessly with their online life and that will make the students' Facebook friends wish they were there.

Presented by:

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