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Friday, March 30, 2007

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What were weaknesses, drawbacks, or the least effective elements of the conference?

1. Because I did not have me own laptop at the LAN parties (when Jeff downloaded all sessions for attendees)it took a while for me to download conference sites onto my computer at home...a couple of the sessions I could not get to at all. Somehow, we need to ensure PD time for all members of our departments so that our colleagues are on the same page as we are about K12 technology...and we can really get things going in our classrooms.

2. Technical difficulties with some of the videos. Should use only one or two formats for video and podcasts-consistency or easier access. Not all participants had access to all software and weren't as tech savvy.

3. At first it was difficult trying to download all the different formats. I like files I can download and view at my own leisure. The regular audio is my preffered forma t and it was challenging working with video. I also had difficult time with presentations that were 100% web based.

4. It will never replace site-based conferences...f2f interaction is important, but this is an important addition.

5. So much info in a short time. Glad I have the ability to go back and take a look.

6. Had trouble connecting from home (my problem-dial-up) so I missed some of the live presentations.

7. I did not think the interface was that friendly, I understand the concept of the adgenda by day but I think now it should be organized by topic.

8. After a while I came to expect a video presentation. Some of the presentations that were audio only were disappointing form that perspective.

9. None

10. None worth mentioning. I wish I had more time at the time and I am slowly catching up.

11. Different formats of presentations sometimes led to difficulty when proper programs weren't installed

12. Overwhelming number of presentations. Still, they are there for future reference so they are great to

have as a resource.

13. Some presenters obviously spent a great deal of time preparing a presentation. The 240 x 320 videos were really not that effective for me. Too many "RSS" topics were accepted. Elluminate limits were disappointing. Presenters should be discouraged from promoting their "for profit" ventures. Some mentioned upcoming book releases. Some promoted their consulting businesses. It's inappropriate for a free conference.

14. none yet

15. None

16. It would be nice if some of the presentations were broken up into more "bite-sized" pieces.

17. The compressed time frame -- I didn't have time to take it all in. I am a teacher with perhaps an hour a day to look that the conference. Download time is an issue - I would have liked to have been able to get video presentations and resources on CD or DVD to view at my leisure without the click and wait 20 minutes and then see. Also, I would like to have an opportunity to have live talks with just a presenter and an audience to talk about the presentation. The ability to ask questions either asynchronously or synchronously would have helped because sometimes you just couldn't find in a presentation where they said how to do something. I liked it when they had notes or something written to download.

18. I thought everything was extremely well-done and effective!

19. The format of the Blog posts - each one started with an overly long bio of the presenter, followed by an abstract of the presentation. The first thing I want to read is a summary, especially since the posts are mixed in with hundreds of other blog posts I browse each day, and I usually don't care about the presenter. Also, there was little consistency between the presentations in format. Some were podcasts or video podcasts, or pdf's, or wiki texts. Each post was a guessing game as to whether to view in my browser, download to open in quicktime, subscribe to in iTunes. Also, many of the presentation materials were posted under other domains, so even once the k12onlineconference domain was unblocked by the filtering software my district uses, I still couldn't access all of the materials.

20. challenges in using some of the technology to be able to access some events-high learning curve in some cases prior to the event (or during the event)

21. Once in a while I had a hard time downloading some of the presentations - though they worked out in the end, I had a little trouble with the mp4 files. Though I was happy to see the early elementary presentations, I hope that more can be offered next year.

22. I really did not see any weaknesses and drawbacks. As far as the least effective elements of the conference, I am not so sure you need a keynote speaker for each strand. It seemed a little too much. I don't know if I am the most effective judge of that though as I was one of the keynote speakers but in trying to stand back from it I think particpants needed the first one but perhaps not all the others. Also, the keynoters were deferred to in the Fireside chats and maybe more voices would have been heard if that were not the case. I think the organizers were appreciative of all efforts and were showing their appreciation in that manner. That was most thoughtful! My thoughts are not totally finished here but these are intial thoughts. .

23. It was really difficult for me to make time to download and view presentations in a timely fashion. I think having a "one-stop shopping" type of portal would have made it easier to find all the information in a more timely way.

24. Probably not as international as it could be, how do we cater for non-English speaking edubloggers?

25. I never got to many of the blogs; when I did I was "late"--the discussion had moved on

26. none

27. Presentation should be short - 15-20 mins max,

28. N/A

29. We need more interaction with the presenters. Do a skype for each of them. But make sure that they are not moderating their Skypecast

30. so much, and I don't get time off to attend. I should apply for a professional day to sit there and view it all, but I'm sure no one in my district would understand.

31. Some presentations couldn't be viewed offline (living in a remote community, this means that I can't view conference presentations from home, only from work)

32. Can't think of any, can't wait for next year!

33. The only drawback was I just didn't have time to see/do it all! I hope the information stays online for some time to come!

34. tough to keep track of the strands, it was a bit overwhelming

35. It's still a challenge for those with dial-up access, so attendance for many was limited by bandwidth

36. I haven't watched/heard a majority of the presentatins yet, but some immediately overwhelmed me. I'm sure they were great for someone familiar with this tech., but I will have to take more time understanding and feeling comfortable with the various formats of presentation.

37. * skypecasts: gate crashing took place, and people kept disappearing, although they could still be heard * I thought the fireside chats were a good idea, but execution was messy: it shouldn't be the case that you have to have a tapped-in window open, plus a skypecast window, plus the wiki evaluation window open in order to be able to copy/paste the link occasionally plus the list of skypecasts window so you could point someone to the next link in the chain * No terms & conditions, or disclaimer, or indication of how material might be used or copyright statement, as already discussed on skype, and which I will follow-up by email * not entirely Europe-friendly, as you've already acknowledged -- especially in the early days of the conference or pre-conference; not just in timings: it was taken for granted, I think, that everyone understood how the American grad credit system works, but that was a big assumption; also, even the name was USA-centric: "K12" means nothing in the UK, just as "Key Stage 3", for example, means nothing in the USA. In CoA I have asked contributors to give age ranges rather than country-specific terminology. That would be too unwieldy here, and in any case it might be too late as the "brand" has already been established. But you might consider a strapline/sub-title such as "THE online conference about using cool tools in schools"

38. I don't have as much time as I need. The conference was fine...

39. Some presentations took too long to download - suggest give low bandwidth and high bandwidth version of presentations. Some presentations didn't work on my pc - suggest use a common format

40. lack of face-to-face opportunities to share and make contact

41. Some of the presnetations needed to be checked out first. Internet speed had a factor sometimes. To many different formats. Quicktime, Media player

42. I was very impressed with every aspect of the conference.

43. navigation of the K12 Online site--some links were harder to find than others.

44. not many people used the wiki

45. The Skype thing did not work as well as I had hoped during the 24 hour session. It could have been a China problem. I do like the idea of expanding Jeff's LAN party to include others from around the world. Hope glitches can be worked out.

46. I missed the live events due to my time zone and commitments

47. As usual, it didn't solve the problem of time. I am filling this out on Tuesday after the end of the

conference. During the first week I made a point to check things out daily, but I had great difficulty finding time. During the second week I had company and so I totally lost track and missed the whole second half. I am glad it is still available to go back to and learn from. I have lost the chance to participate in the enthusiasm because I will be looking at everything later and I will feel more alone in reading through things.

48. No inconstancy between presentation formats. The releasing of two strands at a time.

49. Would have liked better information about getting professional credit.

50. I was frustrated by the fact I couldn't get onto any real time discussions. Not because of time but because of software issues, including my own district's filtering system. I still have not found a way to watch the mp4 movies. I did try the recommendations by that one presentor that worked for her. It didn't work for me. Most of the 2nd week presentations were too wiki dependent to work for me, I can only access them at home. (The problems doing that has forced me to move purchasing a new system to the top of my to do list.)

51. none

52. I think there may have been too many presentations. It seemed a bit much to digest, but the beauty of Web 2.0 is that it is still there for me to visit at my convenience.

53. Not enough publicity ahead of time.

54. I was overwhelmed by the amount of sessions, but that is okay because I can always go back to view them later.

55. I can't think of any.

56. I tried to 'attend' sessions in real time, but it's hard to do when you are teaching at the same time!

57. Difficulty at times navigating to find the presentations.

58. Not having enough time to go through all material....not really a weakness from the organisers point of view.

59. - More live sessions. -Conference presentaers not answering questions or addressing concertns in the blog.

60. none

61. Skype reliability, more real time conversations with presenters.

62. lack of opportunity to followup other than fireside and skypecast.

63. inconsistent production values video presentations where the visuals added little, could have been done as audio only, which is more portable

64. a lot to cover in a short time

65. I felt as though the live events could have been more effective if the topics discussions were started more quickly. I did enjoy just listening in and asking a question at one point. I liked the interface of the Elluminate software for a discussion of this type.

66. Too short.

67. There were a few too many layers of tools which made some things a bit confusing as to where to go to find information, use things, etc.

68. 1. Because I was not "at" a convention it was hard to keep up during the week and I missed the live events. 2. The interaction components seemed a little scattered- Wasn't sure whether to wiki, blog and tag or go to the presenters blog to dialogue.. 3. Uneven technology formats in presentations- (this is a

technical observation not a content observation) For example the basic Moodle presentation was divided into lots of little segments which made it harder to view.

69. I would like to see more of the videos presented in an iPod-ready format. I converted many of the video presentations so that I could take them along and watch on my iPod.

70. some technical gliches, but overall no real probs

71. The ONLY thing that needs to be fixed is the consistency of the presentations- so that all could be subscribed to in a podcast aggregator.

72. Way too much information at one time!

73. Having everything available in mp3/podcast format would really help those of us who listen to things on ipods at a later date.

74. Tech problems -- but that isn't your fault Perhaps the blog could have been a dated wiki for easier following of information

75. Sounds like some folks had some confusion about some of the technical processes -- but that's not your fault.

76. It was tricky from other than UK, European centres to accessthe live Elluminate events because of the time differences, (it is hard to explain to a spouse why you want to get up at 2AM to talk on the computer :).

77. preaching about web 2.0 tools

78. I can't think of any. You have done a wonderful job.

79. Like to see strand-based RSS feeds. Hope Skype 3.0 helps with banning unwelcome folks to Skypecasts.

80. Some of the presentations being Flash-only, undownloadable.

81. ??

82. I have a personal preferences for the movies.

83. I wish every presentation was available as a QuickTime movie or MPEG-4 movie that was compatible with my iPod, but I realize that part of the goal was to let people demonstrate a wide variety of web 2.0 content sharing modalities.

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