Welcome!

Thank You for Joining Us &

We're Glad You are Here!





Look Mum! No courses! Re-imagining a games development education

Robbie Grigg

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International Games Architecture & Design (IGAD)
Academy for Digital Entertainment
NHTV Breda University of Applied Sciences





Some context











NHTV Sciences

http://www.planetware.com/tourist-attractions-/breda-nl-nb-bre.htm









Agenda

Who is NHTV?

The old way

The new approach

The tool **STRAIGHT***JACKET*

Demonstration

Outcomes / Q & A



Pictured is our Game-Lab environment encouraging professional game development in an industry like environment.

Breda University of Applied

Who is NHTV?

CMGT - International Games Architecture and Design (IGAD).

Part of the Academy for Digital Entertainment.

Based in Breda, The Netherlands (1hr south of Amsterdam).

Students making games with an aim to be the best.

Our graduates find great jobs.









Various skillsets of game development are trained whilst always working together in multi-disciplined teams to create games.



Learning game development at NHTV

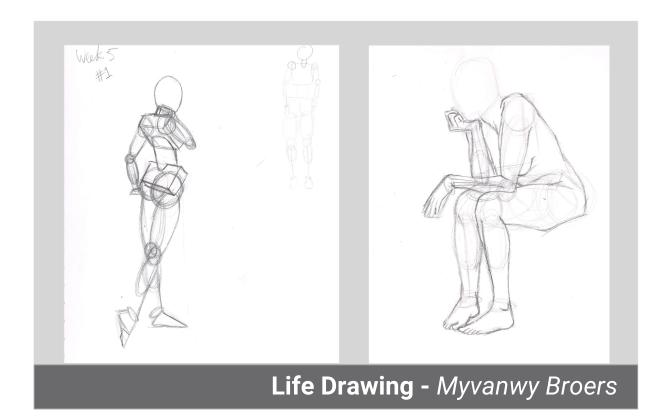
Building on core Art, Design, Programming & Production skillsets.

Ex-Game Industry Teaching Team.

Hands-on with Game Development Hardware.

Entertainment Gaming Focused.

Part of Sony's PlayStation First Group



Life drawing is just one example of the foundation skills taught.











IGAD old course strengths

Good reputation for quality

IGAD Graduates obtain great game industry jobs

Game-Lab is popular and creates rich portfolios



Students are motivated and develop games in and out of NHTV

Students specialise from the first year (in one of 4 areas)

Ex-industry staff passionate about creating the best graduates



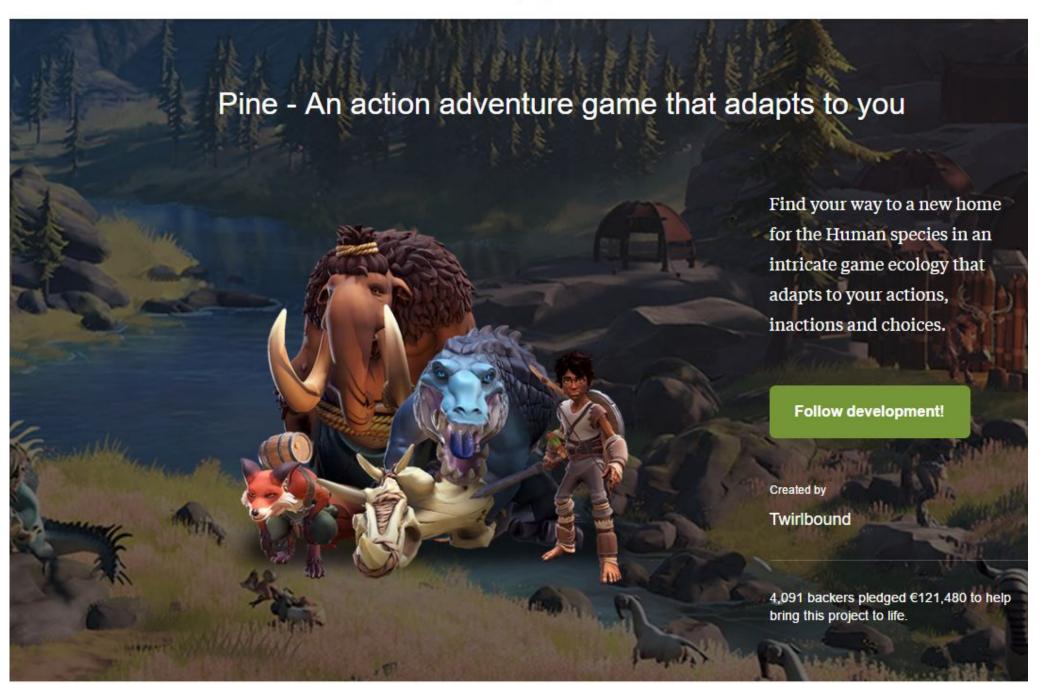


Output from the study example





KICKSTARTER





IGAD course challenges

Student challenges	Staff challenges	Management challenges				
- Large numbers of courses and competing game-lab	- Overheads on course creation/changes/running	- Graduation numbers too low - high dropout rate				
projects	- Grading is time	- Lots of study delay				
- 4 pathways that are quite rigid preventing deeper	consuming and requires work at home	- Too many courses (3x a normal programme)				
specialisation and creating fail points	- Retakes require multiple versions of courses	- Course changes are difficult to implement				
 Difficult to impossible to change between pathways 	- Fast changing industry means difficult to keep up	- Room scheduling a				
- Related extra-curricular activities not recognised	- Teaching non-expert areas	roadblock- Hard to determine where students are at				
- Burn-out	- Stressful	- Not viable				



Old courses

Individual courses

3-4x what is shown

Then x2 that

Course versions

Retakes

Student sign-ups??

Shared courses

Pressure to share more courses...

Programming - Year 1 (54 Credit - No Compensation)			Programming - Year 2 (-6 Credit Deficit Entry)				
Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D	Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
Game La	ab 1 (GL1)	Game L	ab 2 (GL2)		ab 3 (GL3)		ab 4 (GL4)
4 Cr	redits	4 C	redits	6 Ci	redits	6 C	redits
Carlos Santo	os & Dino Dini	Carlos Sant	os & Dino Dini	Jamie Stewart	& Brian Beuken	Jamie Stewart	& Brian Beuken
	GAD wide)		IGAD wide)	Same Stowart	a Brian Boaron	Same Stand	o Brian Boaron
Game Production 3 (GP3) - 03	Game Production 1 (GP1) - 02	Game Design	Writing Skills 1 (WS1)				
History of Industry	Production Process	Fundamentals (GDF)	English		GAD wide)		IGAD wide)
2 Credits - Robin Potanin (Shared with DP)	2 Credits - Jack Ward Fincham (Shared with DP & IGD)	2 Credits - Jack Ward-Fincham (Shared with IGD)	2 Credits - Anita Kreugel (Shared IGAD/IMEM wide)	Hardware 3 (HA3) Multi-Core Programming - Sony PS4	Hardware 2 (HA2) - 03 Network Technology	Hardware 1 (HA1) System & Processor Technology	Hardware 4 (HA4) Audio Programming
	Graphic Tech Fundamentals 1 (GTF1)			Walia-colo i Togramming - cony i ca-	Tretwork recimology	System & Flocessor Technology	Addo Frogramming
Study Planning 1 (SP1)	- 05	Graphic Fundamentals 2 (GTF2)	Audio Visual 1 (AV1)	4 Credits	4 Credits	4 Credits	4 Credits
0 H	Coming Delaylikas	Come Madallina	Wide- and Orand Bandontina	Bert Heesakkers	Carlos Santos	(Now Legturer)	Bert Heesakkers
Goes throughout the Year 2 Credits - Karena Morrison	Gaming Primitives 2 Credits - Dino Dini	Game Modelling 2 Credits - Susanne Sexton	Video and Sound Production 2 Credits - Martin Walker		Carios Santos	(New Lecturer) Dongbin Chen	Deit neesakkers
(Shared IGAD wide)	(Shared with VA)	2 Credits - Susanne Sexton	(Shared IGAD wide)			Bongom onen	
Game Engines 1 (GE1)	Software Architecture	Ludology 3 (LU3)	Ludology 4 (LU4)				
Rapid Prototyping with Unity	& Design (SAD) - 01	Interaction & Interface Design	Game Balancing and QA				
3 Credits	3 Credits	3 Credits	3 Credits	Game Technology 1 (GT1)	Game Technology 2 (GT2) - 03 Mobile Development	Game Technology 3 (GT3) Tools and Techniques	Game Technology 4 (GT4) - 0: Al in Games
Jeremiah van Oosten	Dino Dini	Alan Jack	Alan Jack	Physics in Games 4 Credits	4 Credits	4 Credits	4 Credits
ared Across IGAD but at 2 Credits in Art)		(Shared with DP and IGD)	(Shared with DP and IGD)	Dino Dini	Jamie Stewart	Dino Dini	Dino Dini
Programming 1 (PR1)	Programming 2 (PR2) - 02	Programming 3 (PR3)	Programming 4 (PR4) - 02		100000000000000000000000000000000000000		
Introduction to C++	Data-structures	Optimisation	Advanced Data-structures & Algorithms				
3 Credits	3 Credits	3 Credits	3 Credits				
Brian Beuken	Brian Beuken	Jacco Bikker	Jacco Bikker	Graphics Programming 1 (GRP1)	(Shared with IGD - MB2) Graphics Programming 2 (GRP2) - 03	Graphics Programming 3 (GRP3)	Graphics Programming 4 (GRP4)
				Rendering Elementals	3D Engine Architecture	Graphics Hardware APIs	Shader Programming
Mathematics 1 (MA1)	Mathematics 2 (MA2) - 01	Mathematics 3 (MA3)	Mathematics 4 (MA4) - 01	4 Credits	4 Credits	4 Credits	4 Credits
Vectors	Matrices	Calculus	Physics	Jacco Bikker	Jacco Bikker	Jeremiah van Oosten	Jeremiah van Oosten
3 Credits	3 Credits	3 Credits	3 Credits				
Dino Dini	Robbie Grigg	Dino Dini	Jamie Stewart				
(Charded with ICD/DMD colled ME)							
	Programming - Year 3	(-8 Credit Deficit Entry)			Programming - Year 4 (-10 Credit Deficit Entry)	
		•				,,	
	Dlook D	Dlook C	Plack D	Dlook A	Plack P	Plack C	Plack D
Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D	Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
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Critically - Industry feedback





Students could be more specialised

Not all career paths are supported

Portfolios are sometimes found to look quite similar

They need to finish projects and publish at least one

Students should obtain more experience with production assisting tools















VSTEP











And now:

New Government sector - Creative Media and Game Technology

All new competencies...



Enter IGAD v2.0



2015 - Change all years to the new system...

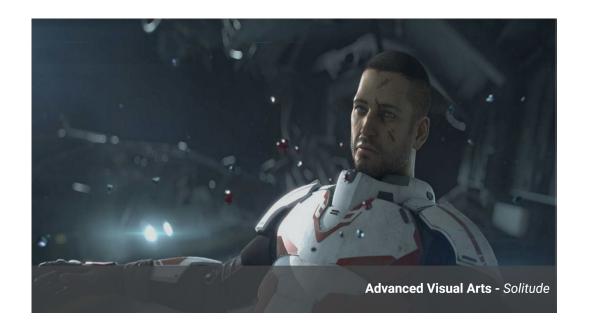


Philosophy

Support each student's personalised learning path

Give a student guidance and facilitate their work towards a perfect career

Give a student guidance & facilitate their academic progress and future options





IGAD v2.0 - Vision for Students

To consolidate us amongst the world's best game educations:

- ☐ Pioneer a Role-Based Learning approach and associated system
- Adopt latest games industry practice for pipeline, tools and management
- Allow students to explore and develop to their best abilities
- ☐ Keep students project focused (no retakes, competing courses, etc..)
- ☐ Allow student game development in & outside NHTV to progress study
- ☐ Bring your own device (BYOD) focused traditionally IGAD
- ☐ Specialist hardware, software and dev-kit purchases for Makerspaces



IGAD v2.0 - Vision for Staff

Making it a great place to work:

- Refocus work on making games rather than making courses
- Refocus work ethic to be team-based, supportive & collaborative
- ☐ Reduce administration whilst increasing the quality of assessment
- Mature education model to encourage expert groups
- ☐ Allow staff to focus on their strengths where and when needed



IGAD v2.0 plan

Student plan	Staff plan	Management plan
 No courses Everything project based with one project at a time Role defined by the student Give them control of their competency profile Make it easier to find resources, staff and guidance 	 Teach in your expert area Making the grading process manageable Make student development visible across projects and years Leverage all e-learning resources Be responsive to student needs 	 - Keep students with their cohort - Easily schedule lectures or workshops - Make student progress clear and concise - Address dropout rate - Address study delay
- Encourage participation		



But... a PBL system has a recommended maximum staff-student ratio of 20 to 1





Role-Based Learning (RBL)

Pioneering a new teaching methodology – Role-Based Learning (RBL)

Leveraging the best of Project Based Learning (PBL)

Addressing the weaknesses of PBL – individual performance

BUT this is even more intensive than PBL because we need to individually assess and manage....



IGAD v2.0 - The challenge

Supporting personalised learning is logistically challenging for both Students and Staff within the confines of University management and government requirements

Study support system that captures feedback from a granular artefact creation level through to a high-level learning goals and development

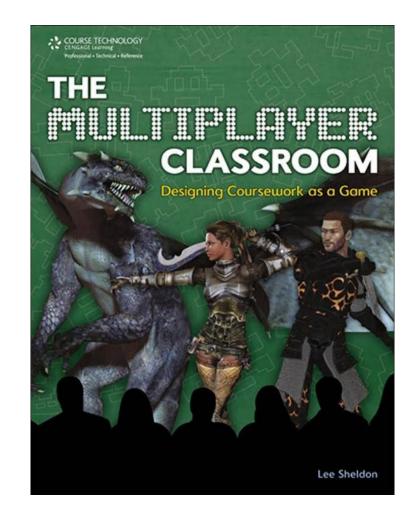
Embrace the experiential learning of game development



Inspiration - RPGs?

The Multiplayer Classroom

By Lee Sheldon





Inspiration - The old learning object model

"The permissive approach to using **learning objects** focuses on making the reuse and localization of all resources, regardless of their structure, as effective and efficient as possible" - from *The Learning Objects Literature* (http://www.opencontent.org/docs/wiley-lo-review-final.pdf)

The Future of Learning Objects - by H. Wayne Hodgins (https://goo.gl/YHMjyO), the father of learning objects

From work in the 90s I saw this appear in and be used in Australia

Although I have seen this come (and go) in a lot of environments



Introducing project STRAIGHT JACKET

This is a word-play on Straitjacket

STRAIGHT*JACKET* is to facilitate an effective RBL experience

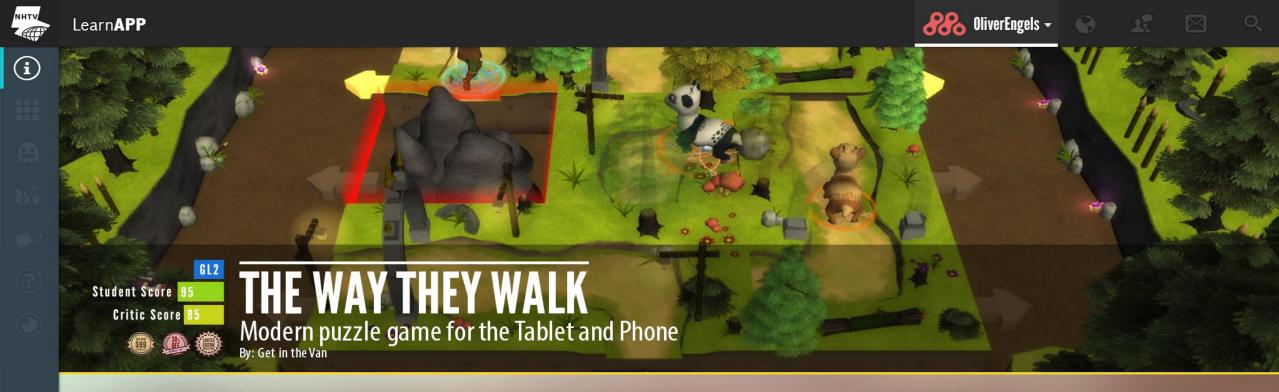
We need to be able to evaluate individual learning paths



Producer, Director, Engine Programmer, Artist, Modeller, Audio Engineer, Designer, Gameplay Programmer, etc..

Student led designs

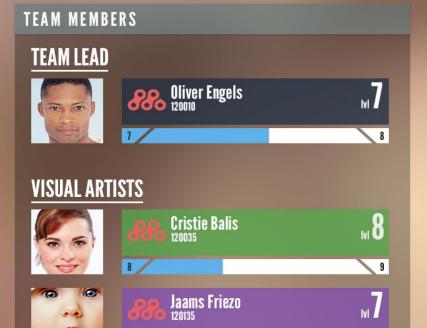


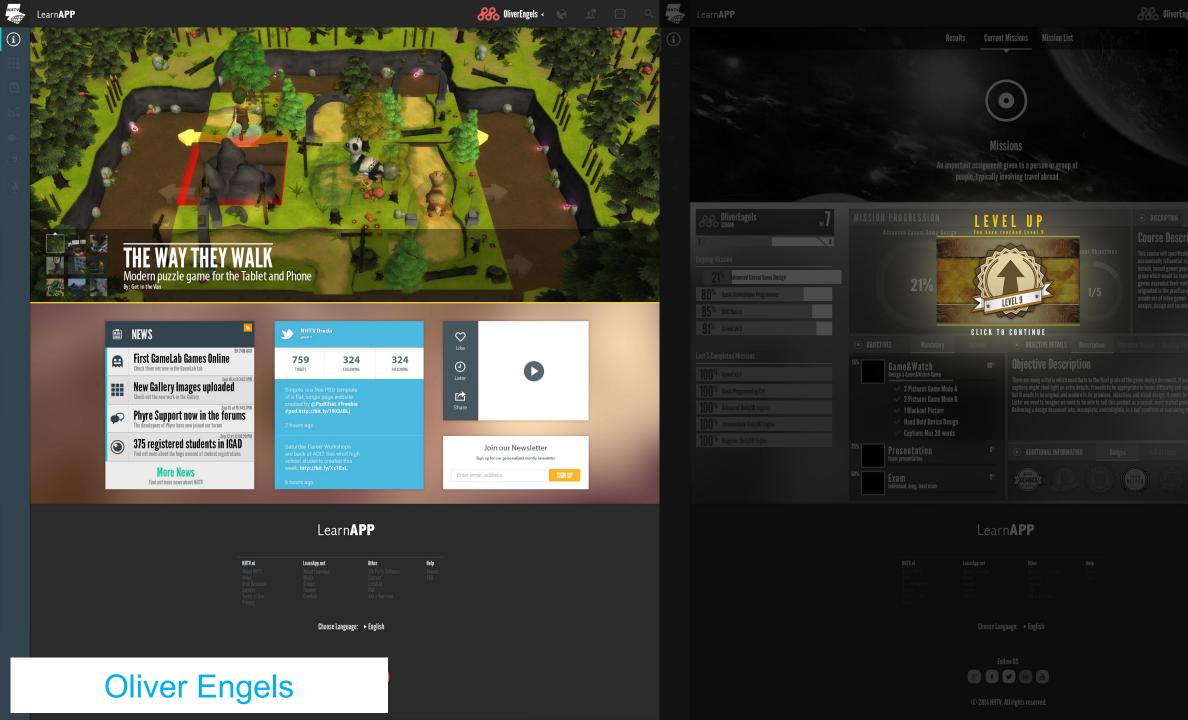


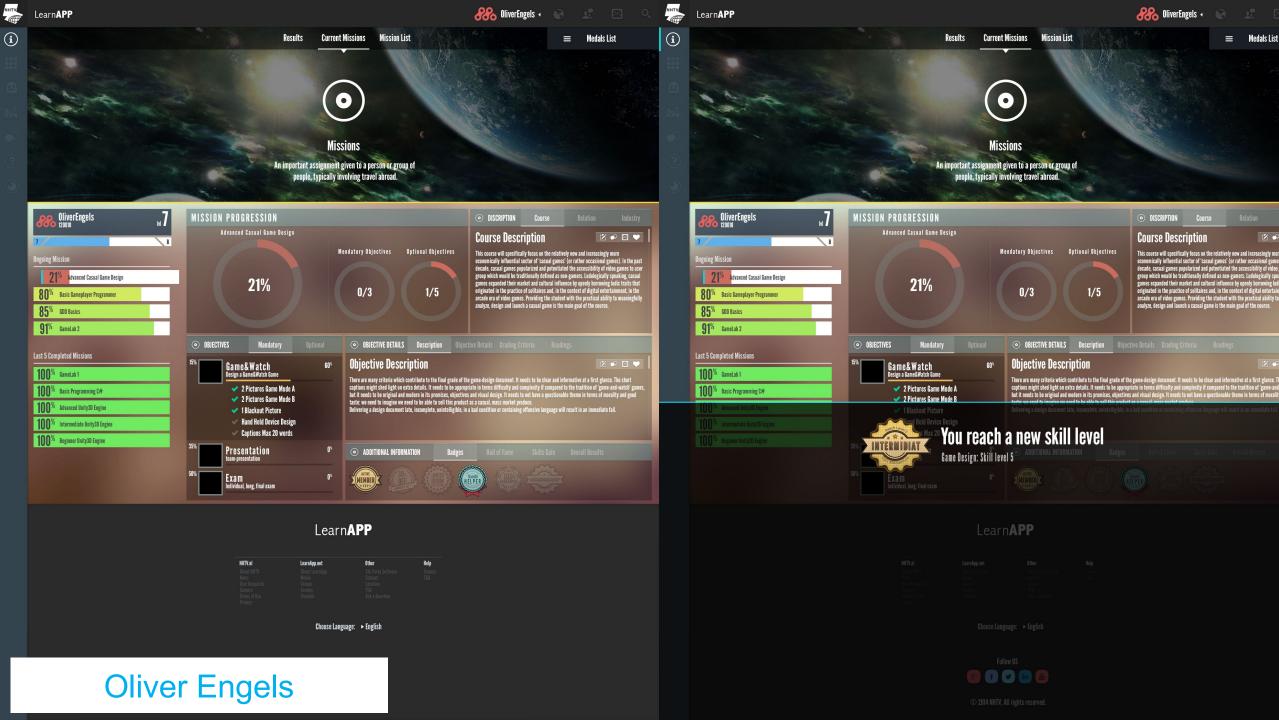
WRITE REVIEW



USER REVIEWS









PROFILE

▼ BOOKMARKED ROLES

Social Designer

Scenario Designer World Designer

Flow Designer

▼ BOOKMARKED OBJECTIVES

Questionaire

Case-study

Apple App Store publish

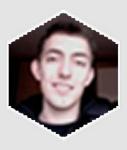
Header Files

Iteration Constructs

Casting

Utomik

2D Collision



OLIVER ENGELS 120010

PROGRESS



AVERAGE LEVEL 2.3

AVERAGE GRADE

8.9



AUTOMATIC TESTING - QA 🚖

The student is able to perform Automated Testing.

▼ RELATED ROLES

Props Artist

Mocap / Live Direction

Tools Designer

▼ REQUIREMENTS

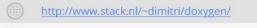


PASS: Evidence proof of technical knowledge through application/research and analysis.



DISTINCTION: Evidence proof of technical knowledge through application/research and analysis.

▼ RESOURCES





A Theory of Fun, Raph Koster (2008)





+ ADD TO PLAYLIST

REQUEST WORKSHOP

COMPETENCY 3

Technological-Implementation & Testing (Graduation Level 3)

EXPERT LECTURERS









COMMENTS

O. ENGELS [120010] Great objective.

M. VAN DE LAAR [120044]

Learned a lot from this one - great industry preparation!

E. VERPLOEGEN [123123]

I love to get coffee for those who work for me, especially when I was assuming this role. Great role!

Matthijs van de Laar

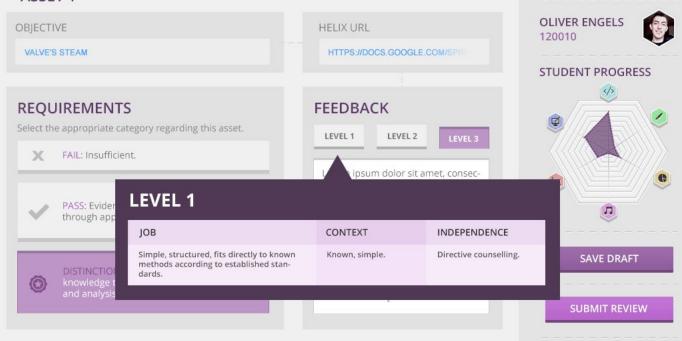


PLAYLIST GRADE

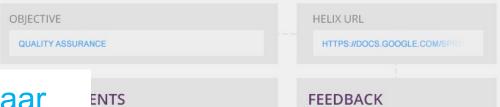
PLAYLIST FEEDBACK

Give feedback on this student's submitted playlist here. Please give written feedback, a stamp and a level per asset. Please give an overall grade for the playlist on the right.

▼ ASSET 1



▼ ASSET 2



Matthijs van de Laar

iate category regarding this asset.

LEVEL 2



SUBMITTED PLAYLIST

This page displays the feedback by supervisors on your submitted attempts.

PANEL REVIEW BY: OOS, DUG, HAG



▼ ASSET 1

OBJECTIVE

VALVE'S STEAM

REQUIREMENTS

PASS: Evidence proof of technical knowledge through application/ research and analysis.



DISTINCTION: Evidence proof of technical knowledge through application/research and analysis.

HELIX URL

HTTPS://DOCS.GOOGLE.COM/SPREAD

SUPERVISOR FEEDBACK

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Sed nec neque est. Nam condimentum molestie orci at lacinia. Nunc tincidunt nulla orci, non hendrerit est pulvinar at. Nulla bibendum dapibus nulla, ut bibendum elit varius ac.

Duis porta interdum justo, eu laoreet neque sollicitudin eget. Ut ac justo nisl. Ut iaculis molestie sapien a cursus.

RESULT



LEVEL

▼ ASSET 2

OBJECTIVE

QUALITY ASSURANCE

HELIX URL

HTTPS://DOCS.GOOGLE.COM/SPREAD

Matthijs van de Laar **ENTS**

SUPERVISOR FEEDBACK

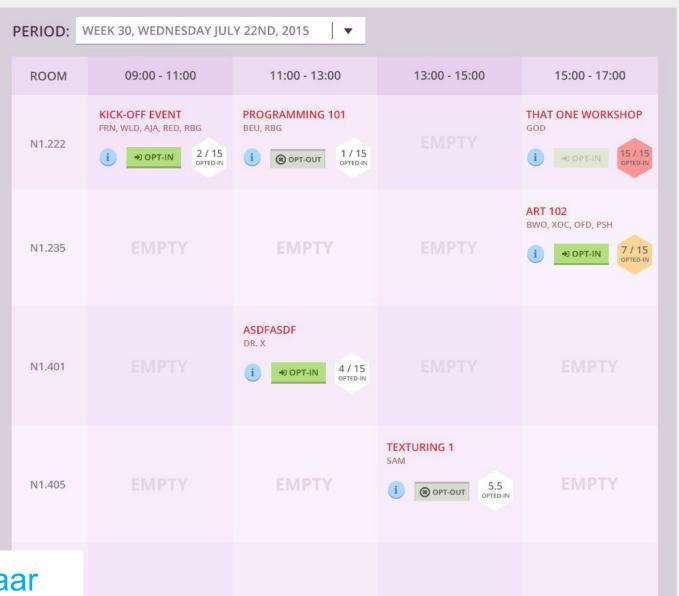
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur

RESULT





WORKSHOPS



Matthijs van de Laar

Program logistics

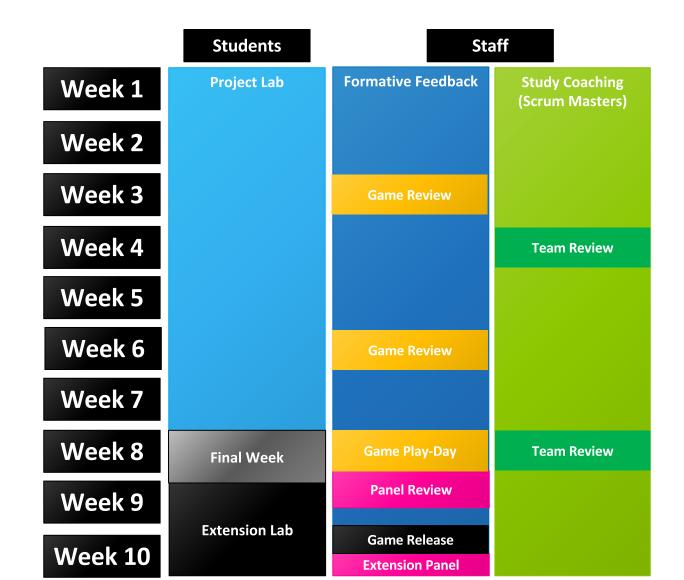


New program structure

Block A Block C Block D Block B Year 1 **Variation Project 2 Variation Project 1 Variation Project 3 Game Project 4** Year 2 **Game Project 5 Variation Project 6 Game Project 7 Variation Project 8 Large Project** Year 3 Preproduction **Production Polish Publish** Minor / Internship / Incubator Student Year 4 Internship / Graduation Company

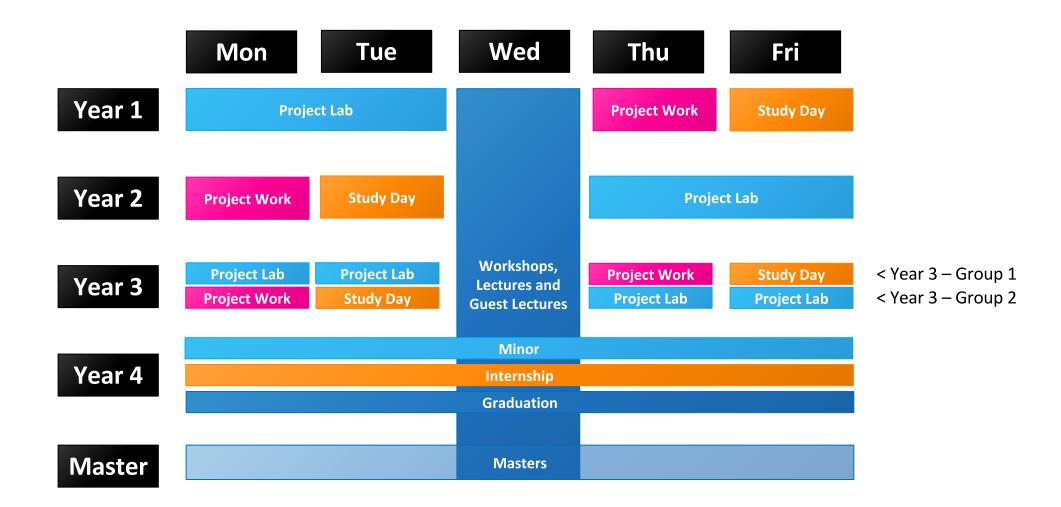


Student block



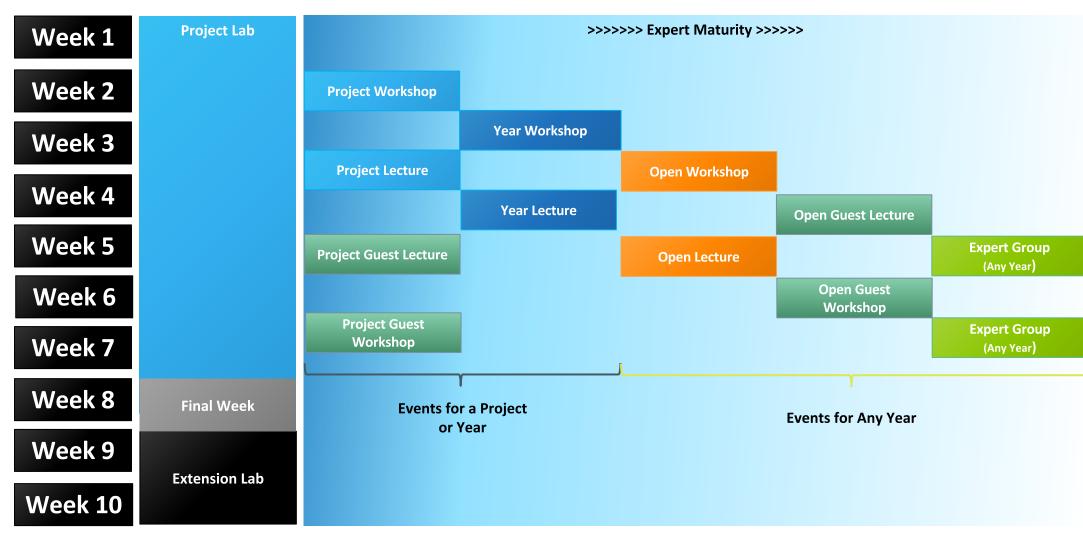


A Student week





Labs and workshops



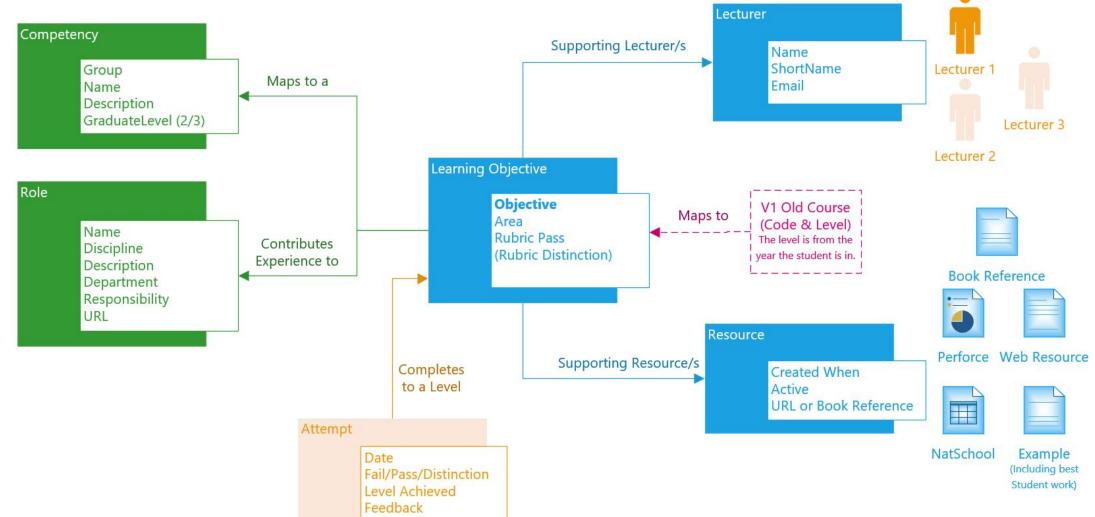


Software architectural design



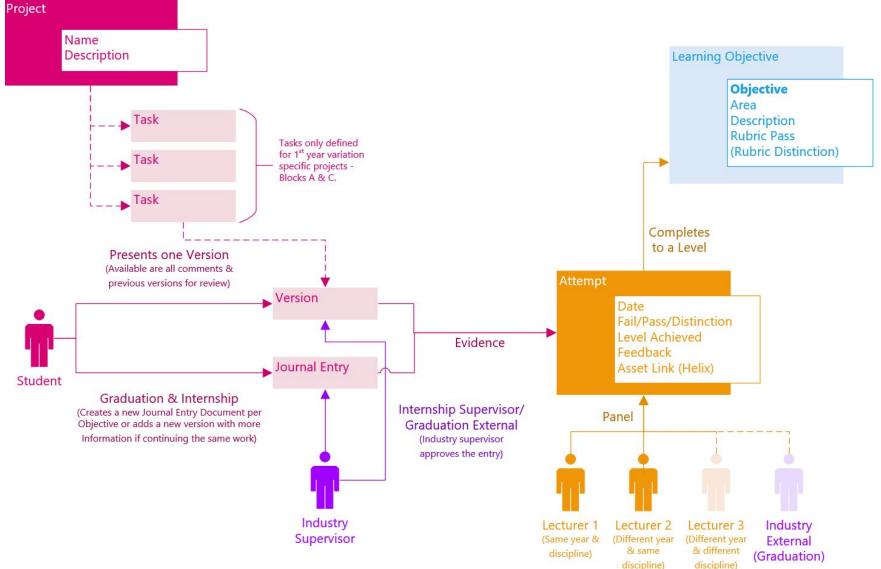
High-level design - learning objectives

Asset Link (Helix)





High-level design - the project





The learning objective

The core of the system - decoupled from courses

Clear rubric

Linked lecturers to go see for help

Linked learning resources

Linked competency

Linked careers

Associated objectives



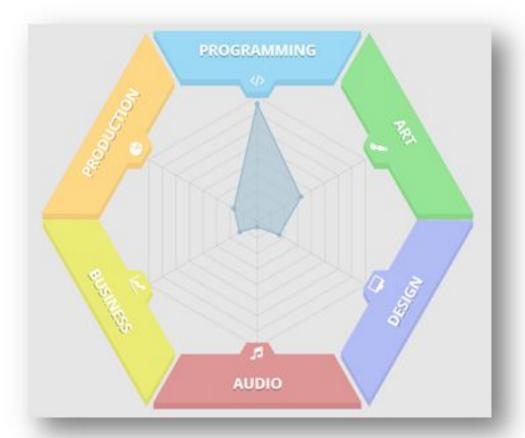


Career profile

Students can review and bookmark careers

Look at what learning objectives are related to a career path

Students can find other career options within an area



The career profile showing what areas they have developed in.



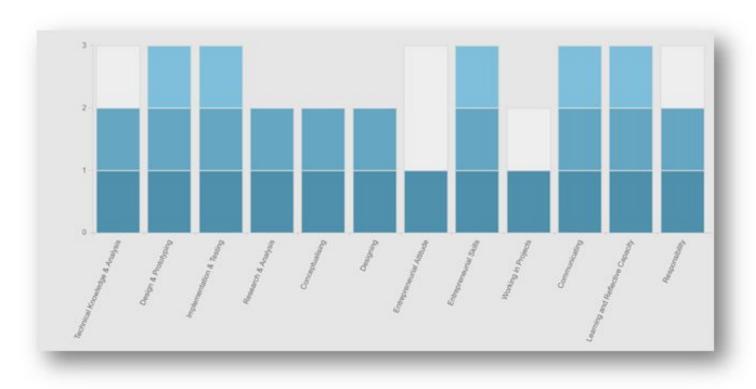
Academic profile

Student can see their progress

They can find learning objectives that may interest them for a future project

The graduation profile is made quite clear to students

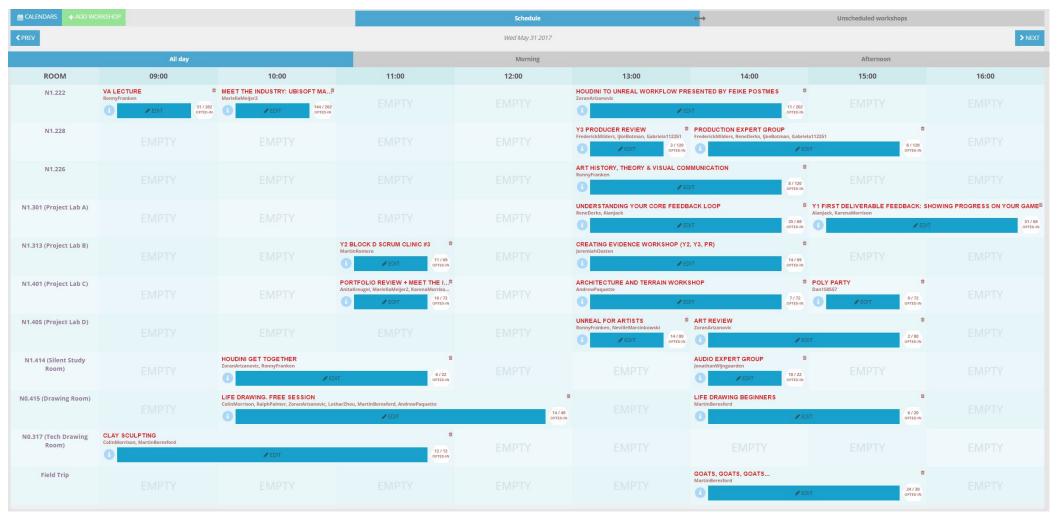
Maybe this is too much...



The academic profile for a student showing both their current position and graduate profile in silhouette



Workshop Wednesday - conference like





STRAIGHT JACKET walk-through



Technologies used

STRAIGHTJACKET is built on:

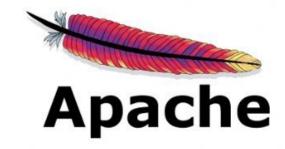
- Apache
- □ PHP/Bootstrap/HTML/CSS
- MySQL
- Currently running on a windows server
- ☐ Tested on Chrome only (due to resources)
- Gravatar.com for user icons













Security

LDAP Authentication with 4 security levels:

- Not Logged In View best student examples
- → Student View objectives/careers/workshops & Individual progress/playlists
- ☐ Staff View objectives/careers/workshops, resource changes and Student progress/playlists
- ☐ Staff Admin (Testing Committee) Staff abilities as well as new and edit objective request processing

Objective are automatically versioned - this is a continuous improvement system

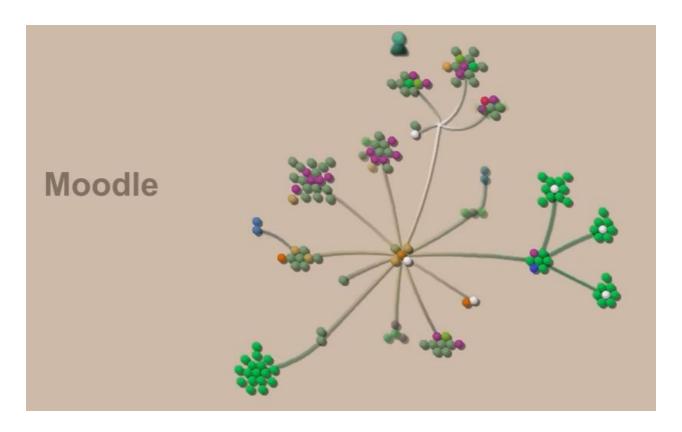
The more open the better!



Visualizing student progress

Asset activity - Gource (http://gource.io) is open source and examples in the video (https://goo.gl/oMykWd) include:

- Moodle
- Git
- Drupal
- PostgreSQL
- Ruby on Rails
- Linux
- VLC Player



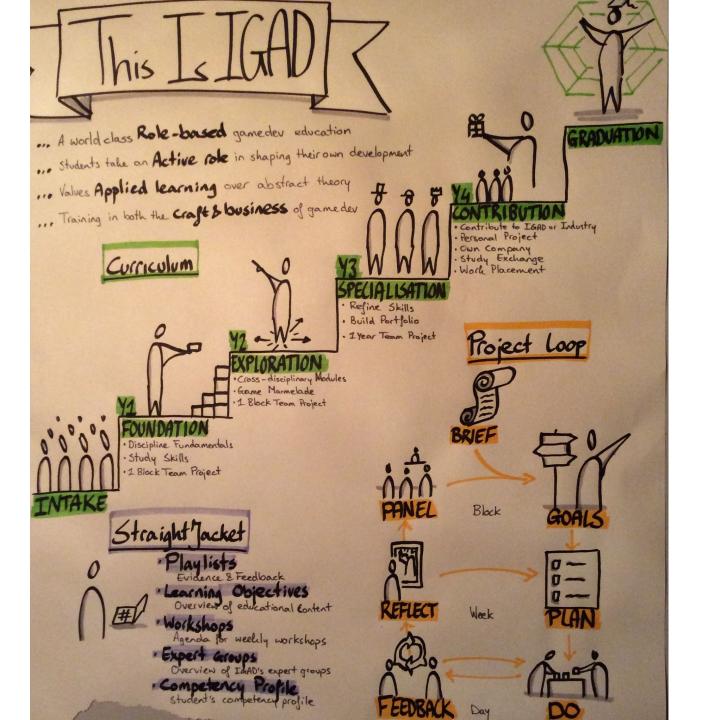


Staff trying to better understand it



Project Loop Teacher feedback Feedback **Panel** Learning plan Project pitch **Playlist** & reflection Learning goals What do you want to learn? My What role will you develop? Objectives Dreams Evidence Feedback Reflection Learning Development Backlog Perforce objectives & Resources Product goals Is it a game worth making? Playable Are you able to make it? build

Rene Derks







Staff working in teams?



Master - Apprentice relationship

Feedback culture

Grows amongst student

Experiential is important

Peer pressure is important in engagement

Single point of focus

Portfolio artefact - what they want



Change challenges

We lost 35% of staff

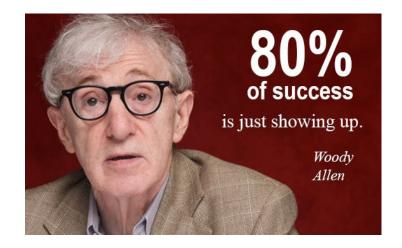
Research warned us that 33% of staff will be lost in such change...

Working in teams has really pooled knowledge, resources and support centrally but this could be done better

Supporting more personal development outside of the core project

Faculty Resistant to Change of Assessment Techniques (mentioned also in the Lessons Learned from MOOCs - Deborah Keyek-Franssen)

Pareto principle or 80/20 rule...





Interim accreditation

Results from the 1st interim accreditation



Accreditation - a success

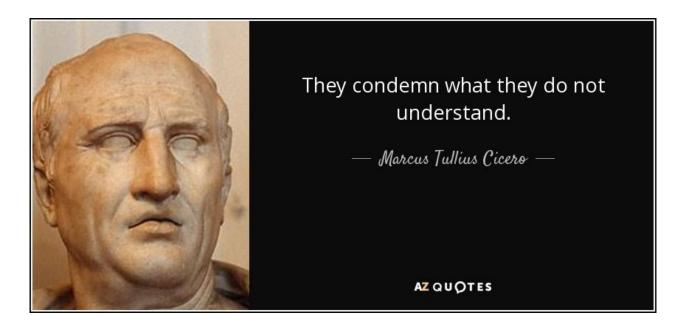
"The panel would like to compliment the programme for choosing such a bold innovative educational method, understanding very well that implementing a project-based curriculum with individual assessment challenges both staff and students. The motivation, commitment and enthusiasm of the staff was much appreciated. The panel is confident that this team will be able to fine-tune the new curriculum in the coming years."



But - accreditation discussion

"Make a film about a student journey to make a panel understand the individual pathway, to get a grasp of what it is all about."

This highlighted that what we are doing is so different we have problems in helping outsiders understand what is going on





Survey results



Staff response

Staff extremely happy about not taking large amounts of work home

Amount of hours changed except that most agreed they no longer took work home

79% prefer the new way of teaching

78% felt that the relationship with students is more open

56% felt that it gives students a better portfolio

56% felt that the approach prepares them better for industry

86% felt that this approach makes their life/work balance better



Student response

90% believe it is building them towards their desired career or internship

61% believe there are maintaining a good life/study balance

89% are happy being at the study

73% thinks this study approach is better than prior education experiences

26% think we need more staff (44% undecided on this)



NSE results

External National review



NSE Discussion

We went to number 3 in the Netherlands in the first year from number 1

But now we are back at number 1

We performed strongly in nearly all areas

Number of assessments scored low...





Outcomes



Outcomes

Results so far:

- Staff and students use this tool a lot
- No more scheduling issues
- No more late grades grades delivered within 48 hours (even immediately)
- Student learning is more individually than ever before
- Supporting a large variety of possible student specialisations
- ☐ Feedback culture is more positive
- ☐ Interest is higher in what each student is doing
- ☐ Dropout rate in project to be around 10 percent
- ☐ Knowing who will attend your workshop/lecture
- Increased attendance and contact time



Doing this yourself?



Thoughts on making Role-Based possible for you

How might you approach this within your education?

- □ Give foundations
- Create interesting options to find, explore and undertake
- Be creative with existing tools
- Start simplistically
- Give students enough structure, but not too much



Example software

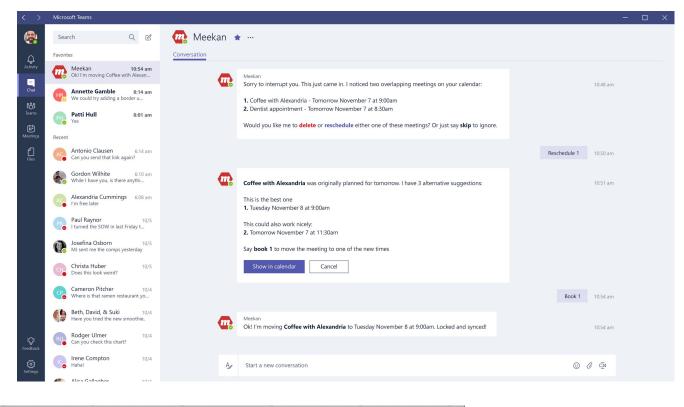
Microsoft Teams

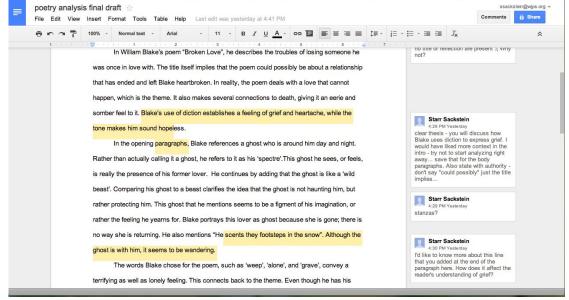
Slack is great but...

Incremental document changes...

Google Docs

Office 365



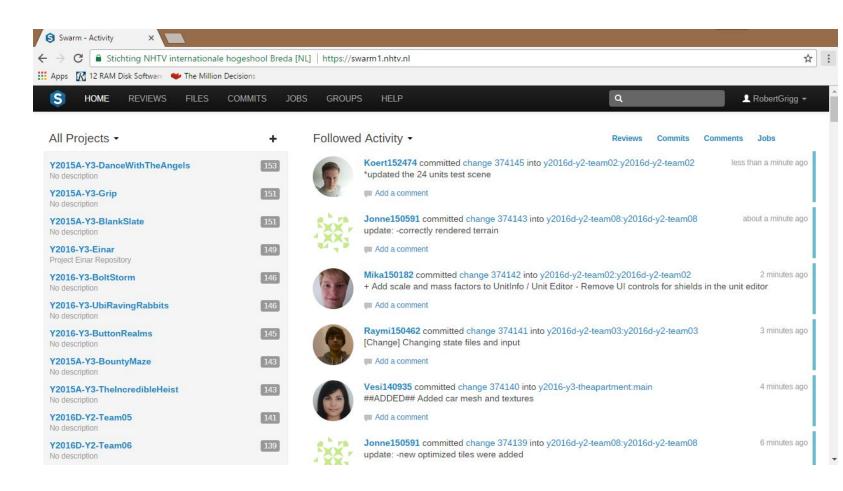




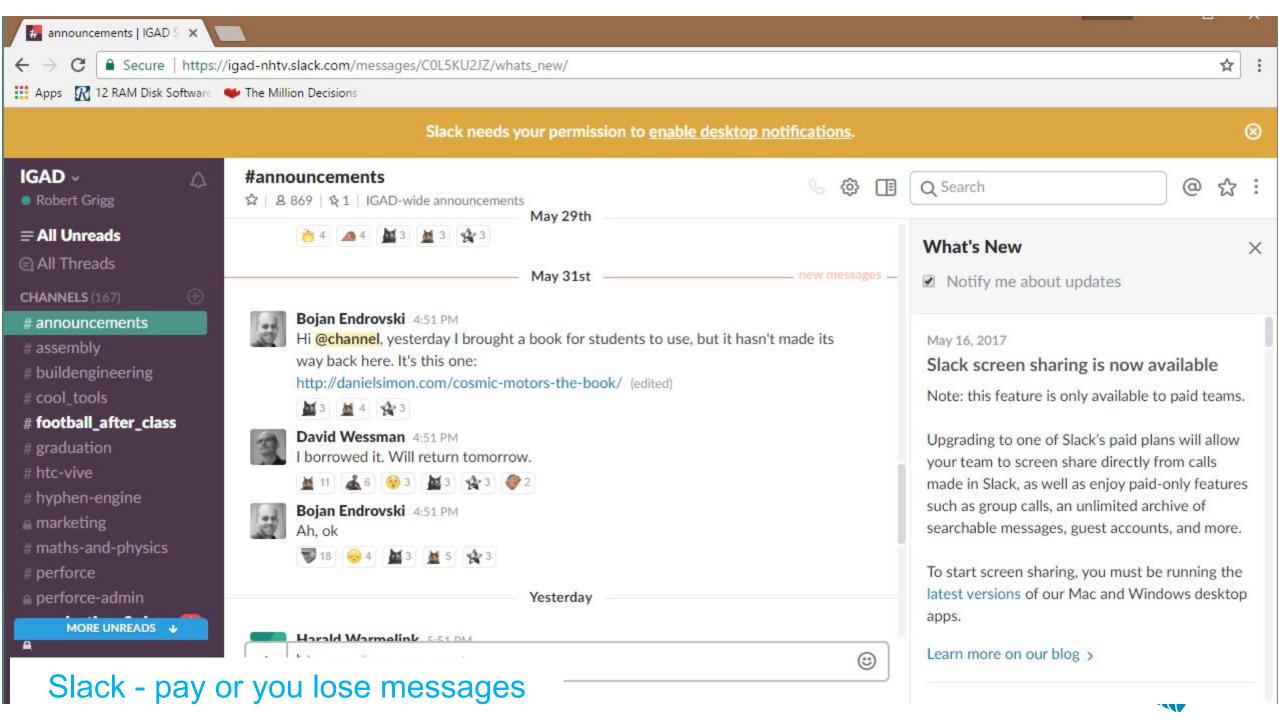
Version Control

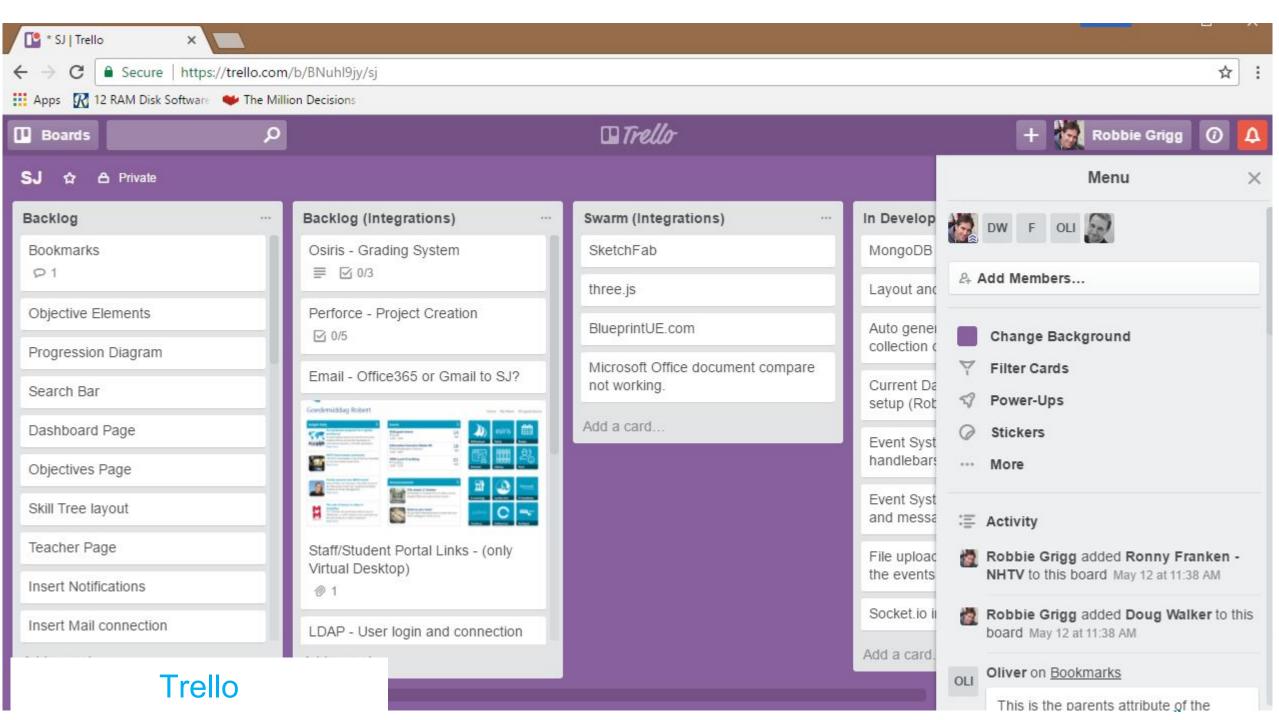
Can it help?

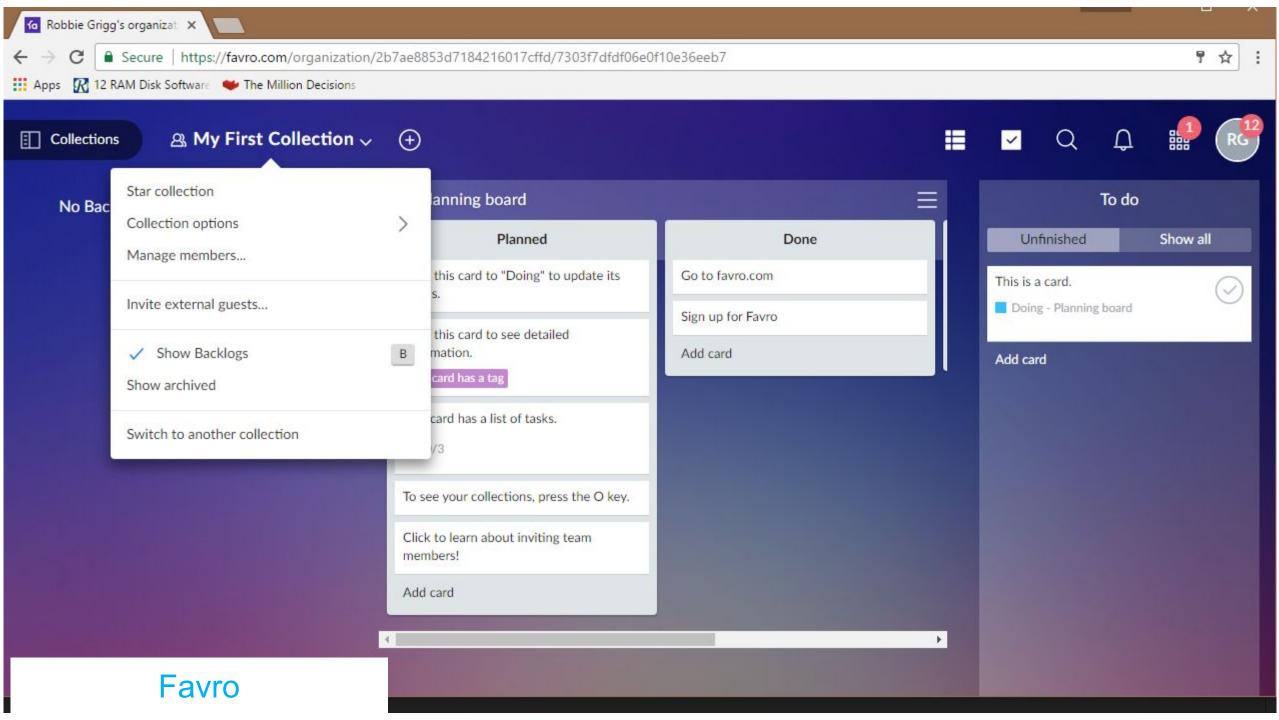
- Perforce/Swarm
- SVN
- Git
- Lots of other options











Special Thanks

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Bert Heesakkers, Ronny Franken, Doug Walker,
Nova Ambachtsheer-van Schijndel, Jet Broeken, Iris Pinel



Q&A

Find out more?
Robbie Grigg
grigg.r@nhtv.nl



Session Evaluations Contest



- https://tinyurl.com/OLCwELD-program
- Navigate to specific session page to evaluate
- Click orange "Evaluate Session" button on the right
- Complete session evaluation*

Each session evaluation completed (limited to one per session) = one contest entry
One (1) \$25 gift card will be awarded

*Contact information required for contest entry but will not be shared with the presenters.

Winners will be contacted post-conference.





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