Exploring the Frontiers of e-Learning @ UKZN 2010

Teaching and Learning Portal: Learning and Sharing

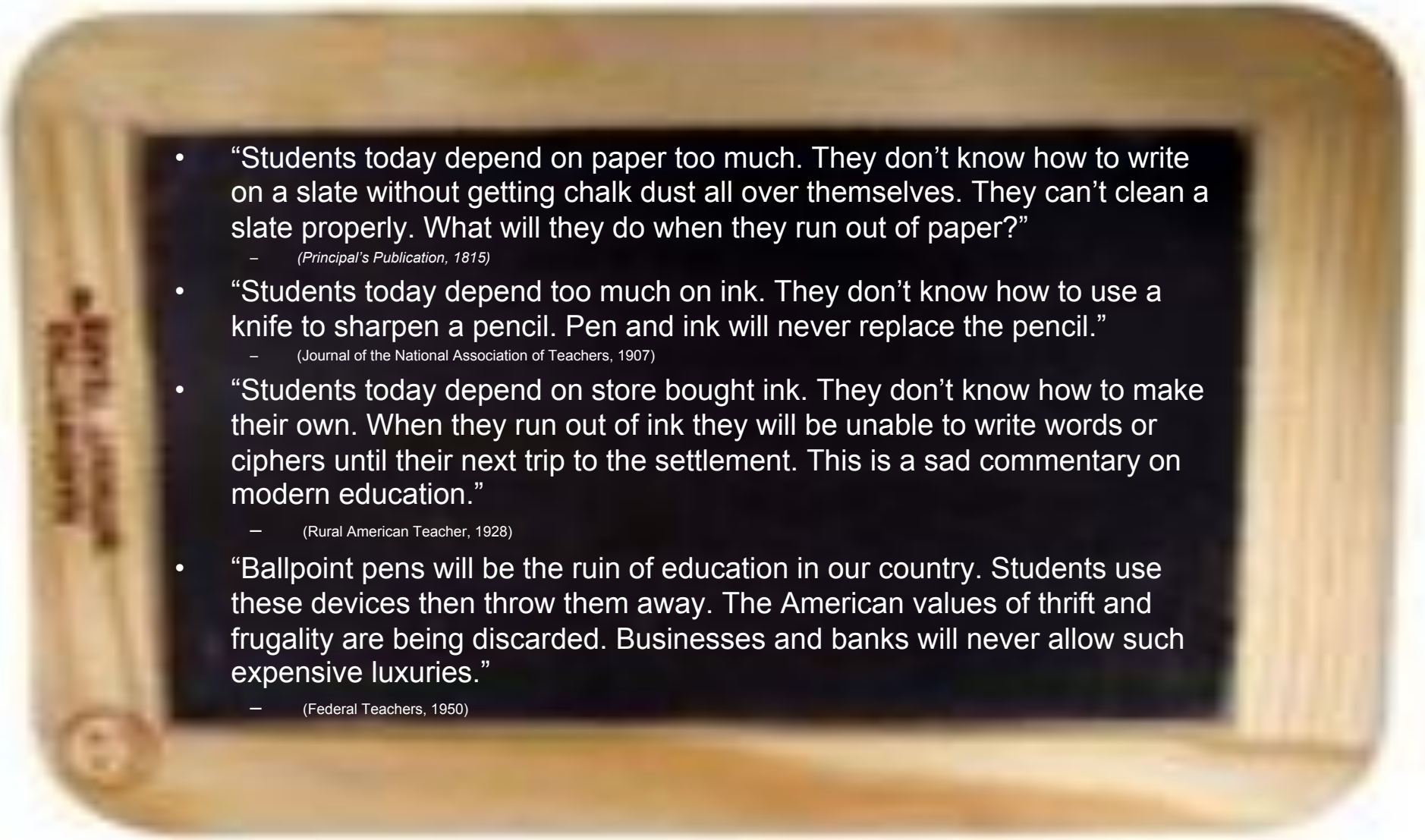
Blewett & Quilling

NEXTED

Collaboration through Innovation *:-)

Learning & Sharing

The journey



- "Students today depend on paper too much. They don't know how to write on a slate without getting chalk dust all over themselves. They can't clean a slate properly. What will they do when they run out of paper?"
  - *(Principal's Publication, 1815)*
- "Students today depend too much on ink. They don't know how to use a knife to sharpen a pencil. Pen and ink will never replace the pencil."
  - (Journal of the National Association of Teachers, 1907)
- "Students today depend on store bought ink. They don't know how to make their own. When they run out of ink they will be unable to write words or ciphers until their next trip to the settlement. This is a sad commentary on modern education."
  - (Rural American Teacher, 1928)
- "Ballpoint pens will be the ruin of education in our country. Students use these devices then throw them away. The American values of thrift and frugality are being discarded. Businesses and banks will never allow such expensive luxuries."
  - (Federal Teachers, 1950)

What will they do when…

They run out of iPads…

Tomorrow is Yesterday?

"Who dares to teach must never cease to learn" (John Cotton Dana)

Where are we going?
Where are we going?

The Chasm of Lost Acronyms

- CBI (Computer Based Instruction)
- CBT (Computer Based Training)
- CAL (Computer Assisted Learning)
- ILS (Integrated Learning Systems)
- LMS (Learning Management Systems)
- CMS (Content Management Systems)
- LCMS (Learning Content Management Systems)
- CMS (Course Management Systems)
- VLE (Virtual Learning Environments)
- SLN (Social Learning Network)

In Search of Learning iTopia

- A place where students & staff meet, share, and learn
- Key Principle - Ubun2.0

Ubun2 .

Web 2.0 Technologies

+

Sharing amongst equals

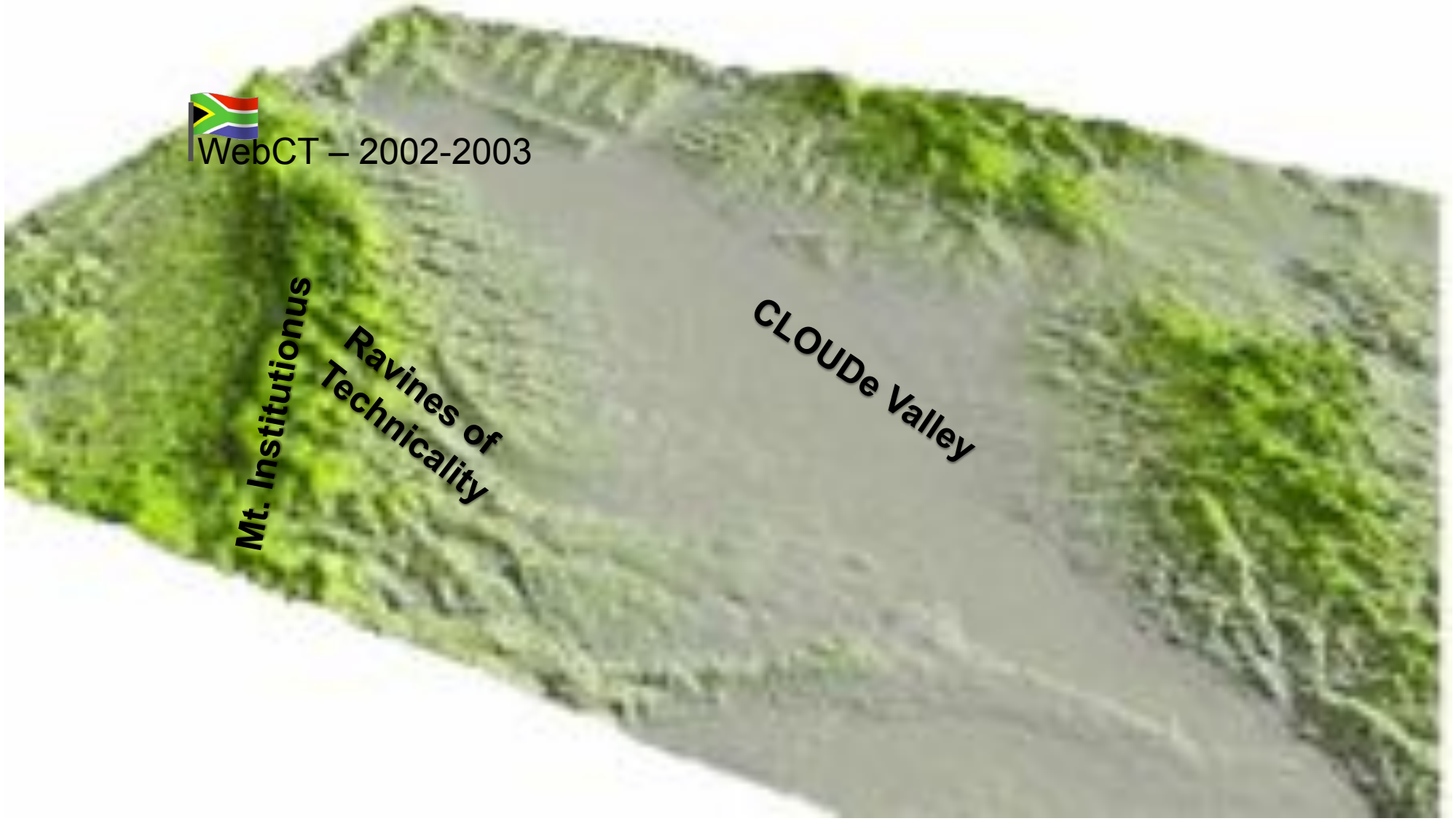
“A traveller through a country would stop at a village and he didn't have to ask for food or for water. Once he stops, the people give him food, entertain him…Ubuntu does not mean that people should not enrich themselves. The question therefore is: Are you going to do so in order to enable the community around you to be able to improve?” (Nelson Mandela)

In Search of iTopia

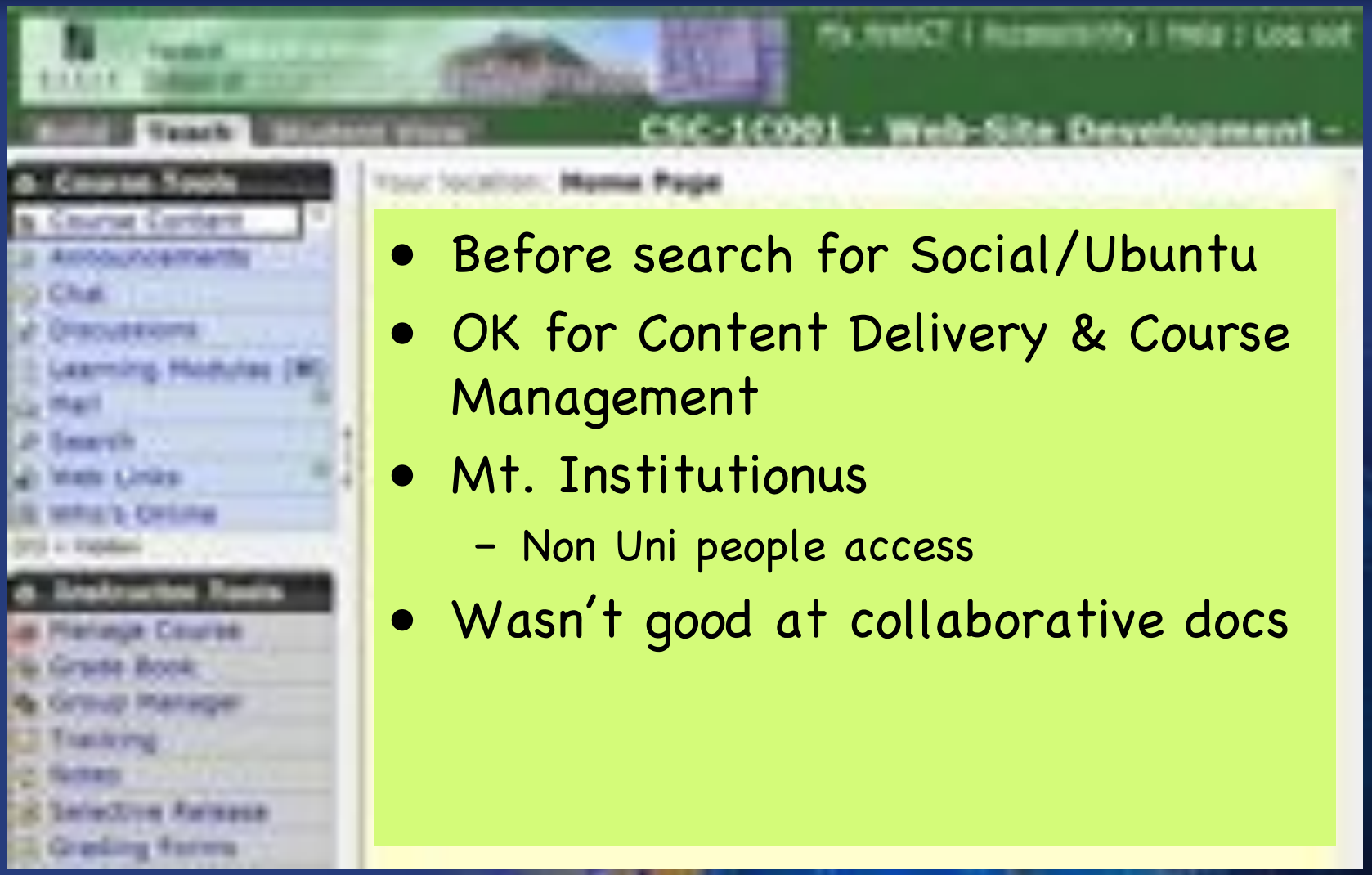
- The Search
  - Virtual Worlds
  - Virtual Learning Environments (focus)
  - Mobile Phones

Our VLE Journey to iTopia

éducation sans frontières



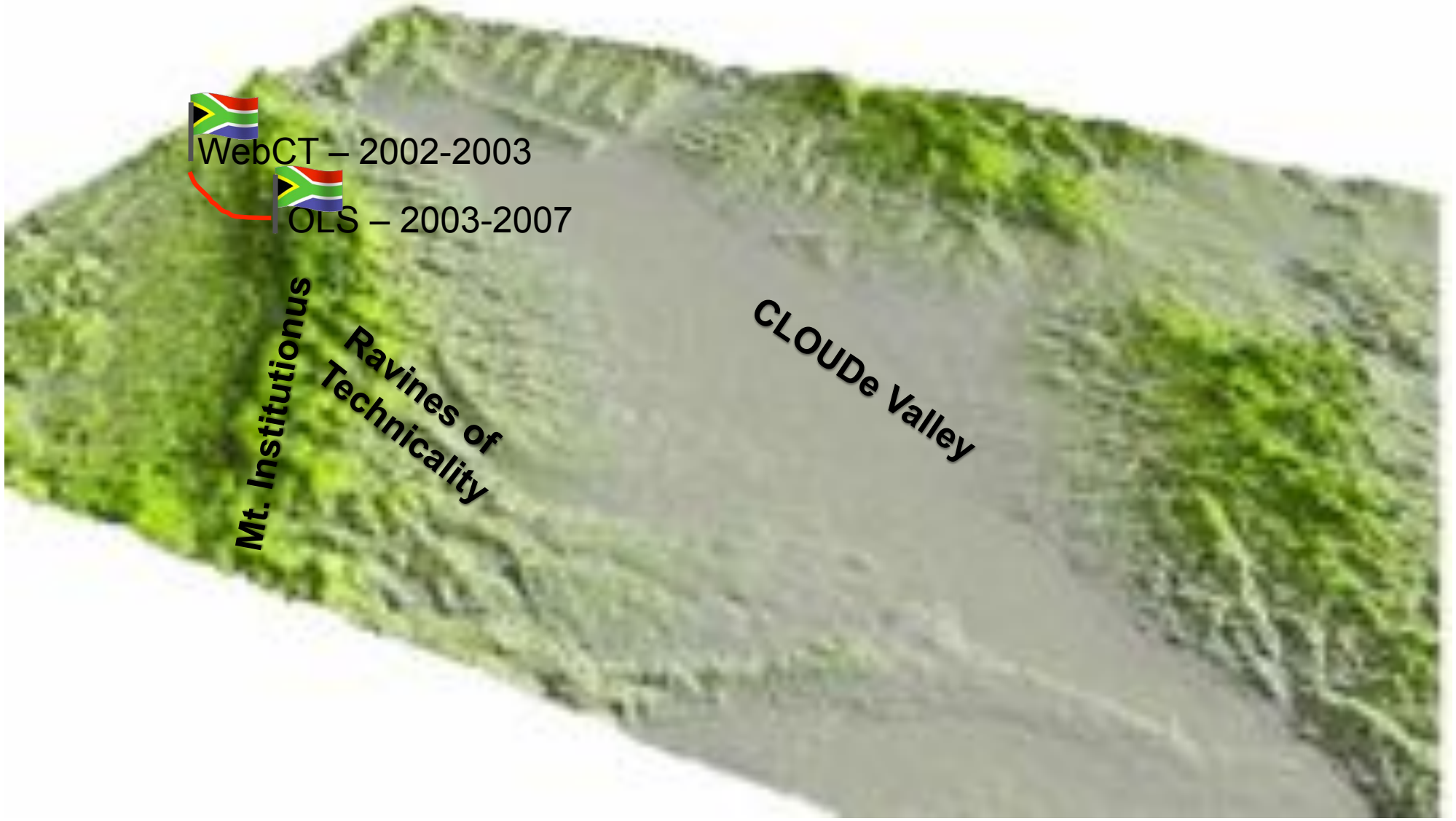
WebCT



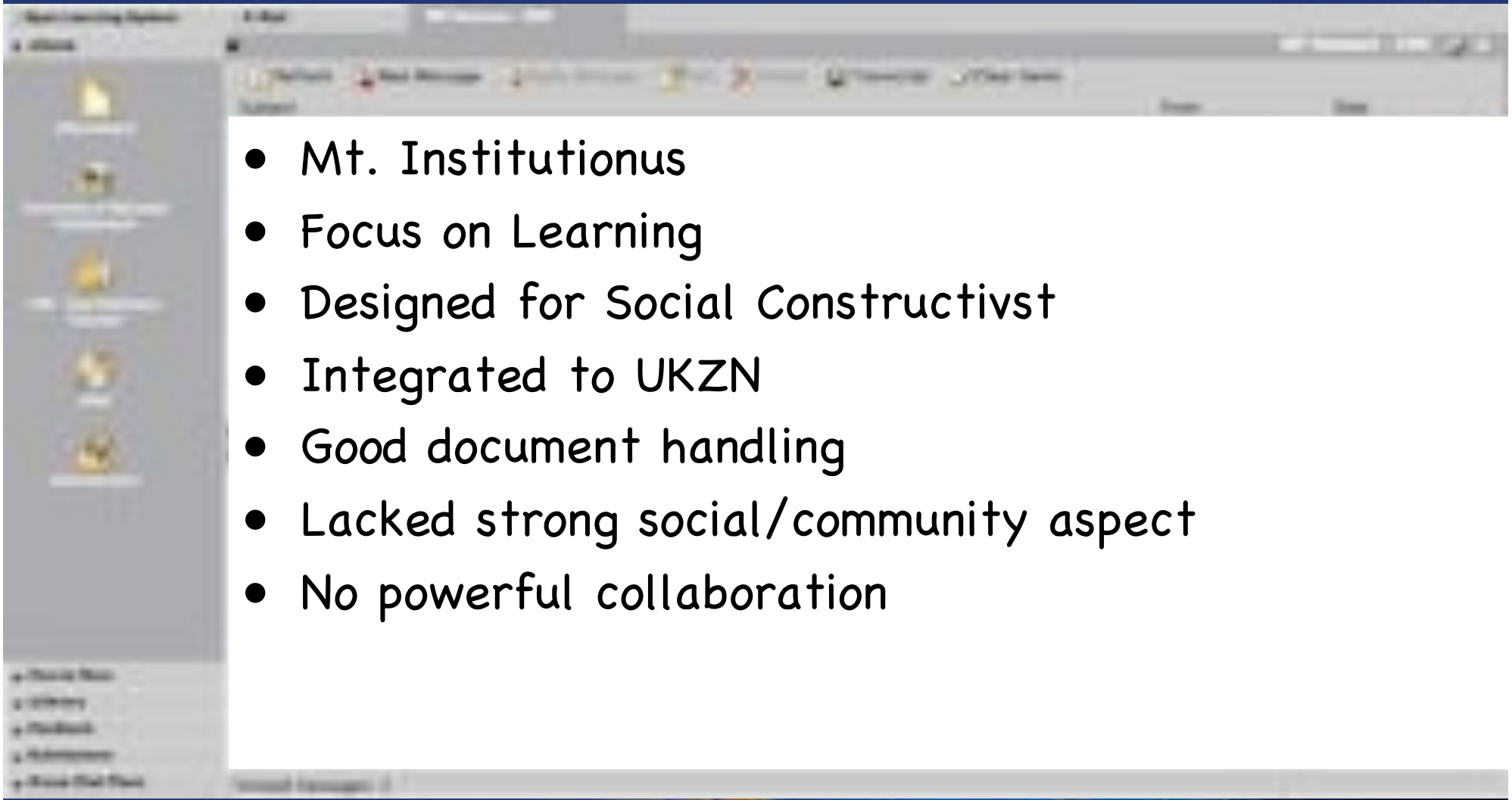
- Before search for Social/Ubuntu
- OK for Content Delivery & Course Management
- Mt. Institutionus
  - Non Uni people access
- Wasn't good at collaborative docs

Our VLE Journey to iTopia

éducation sans frontières



OLS



- Mt. Institutionus
- Focus on Learning
- Designed for Social Constructivst
- Integrated to UKZN
- Good document handling
- Lacked strong social/community aspect
- No powerful collaboration

Our VLE Journey to iTopia

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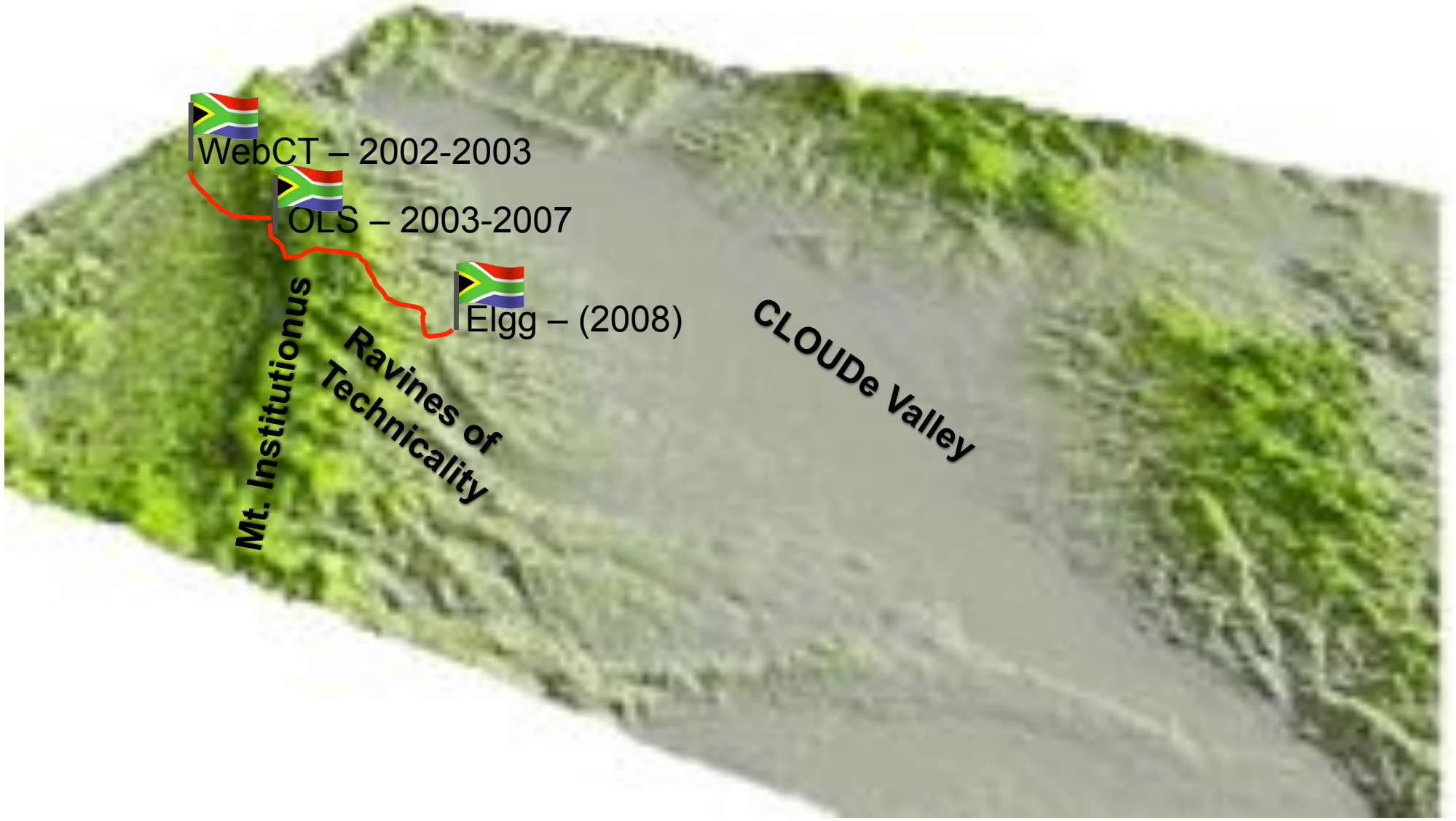
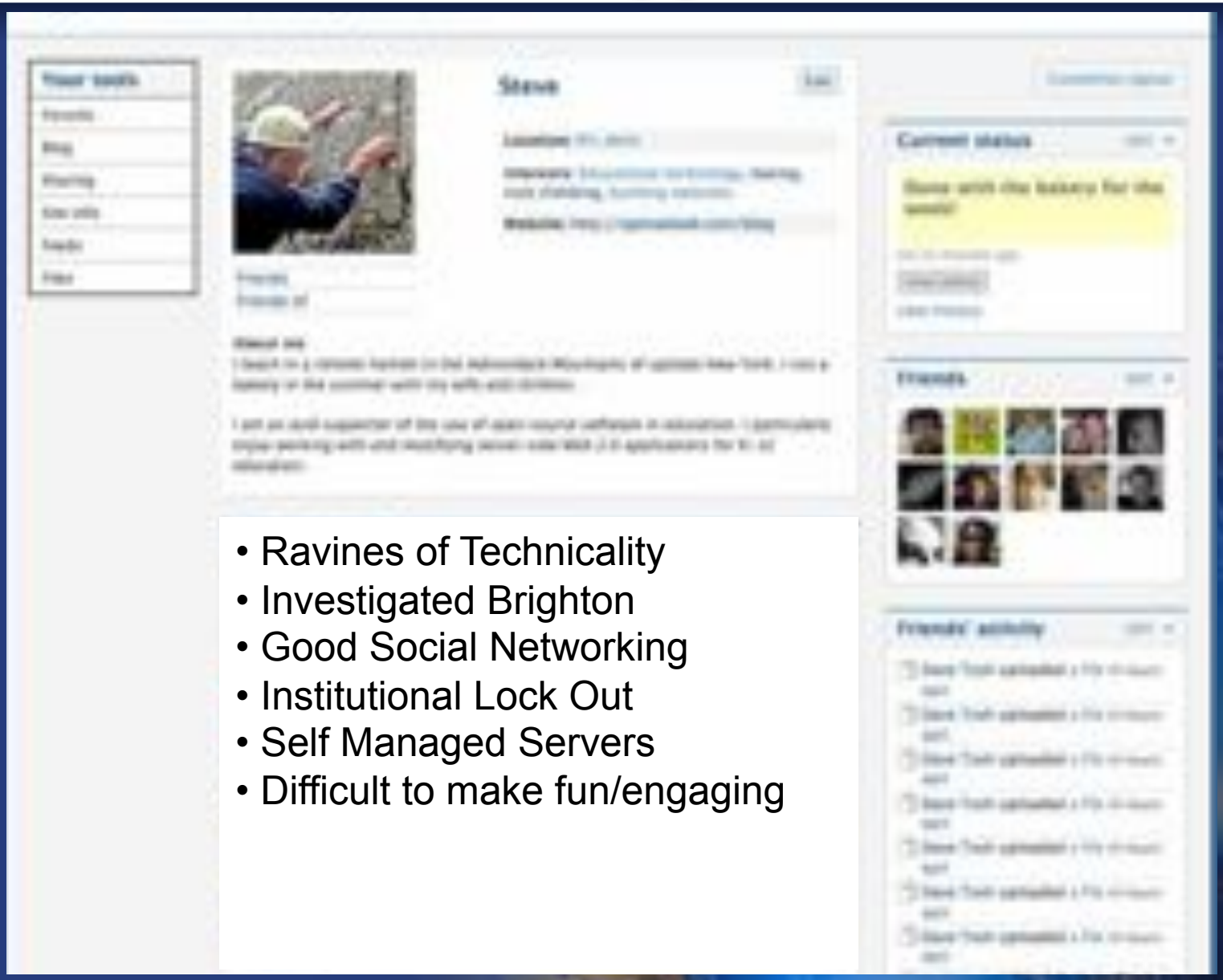


Elgg



- Ravines of Technicality
- Investigated Brighton
- Good Social Networking
- Institutional Lock Out
- Self Managed Servers
- Difficult to make fun/engaging

Our VLE Journey to iTopia

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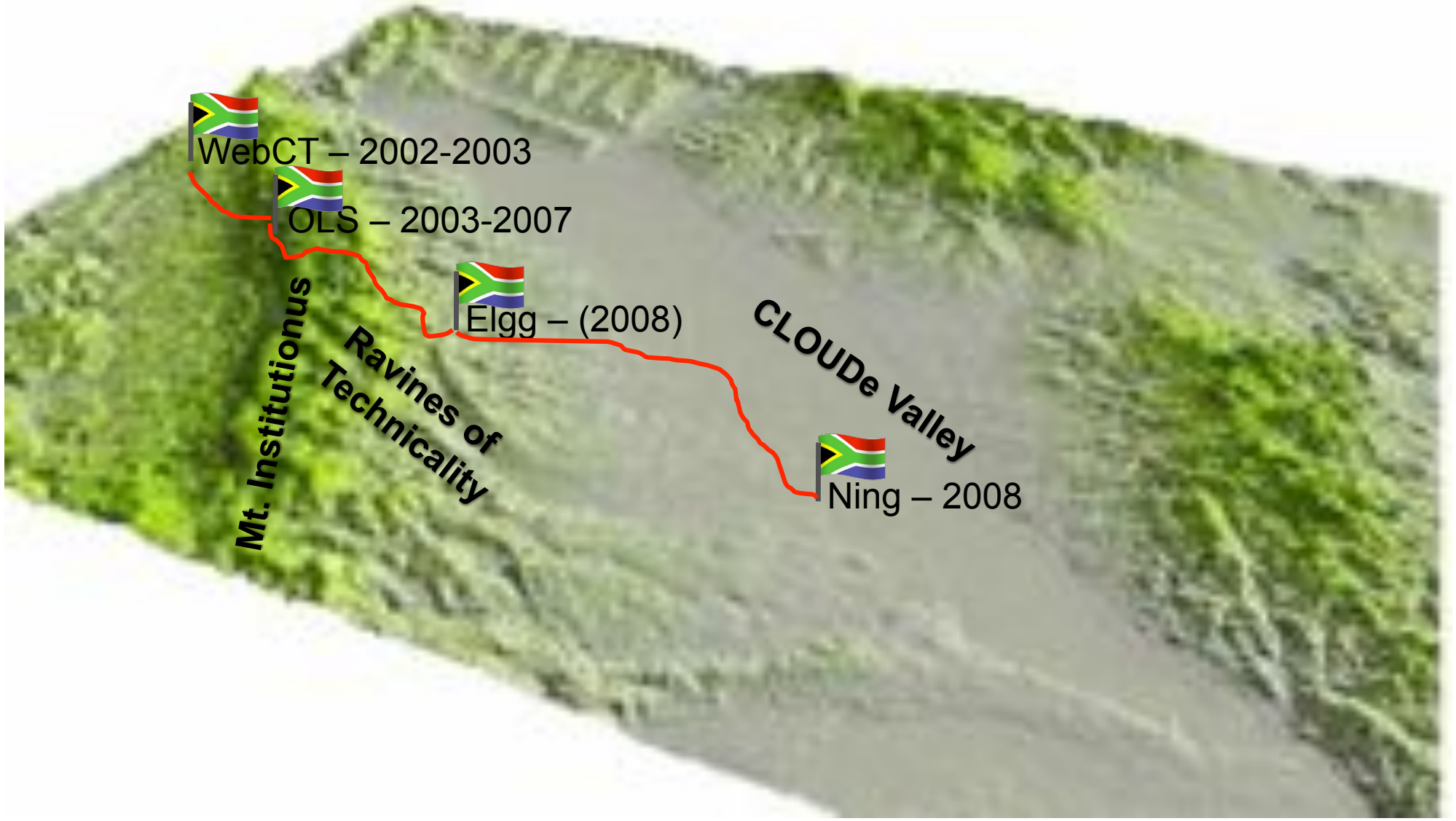

Ning

- **CLOUDe Valley**
- Good Social, Community
- Control nice – any time, place
- Access from anywhere
- Fun interesting interface, functionality
- File Handling poor

Our VLE Journey to iTopia

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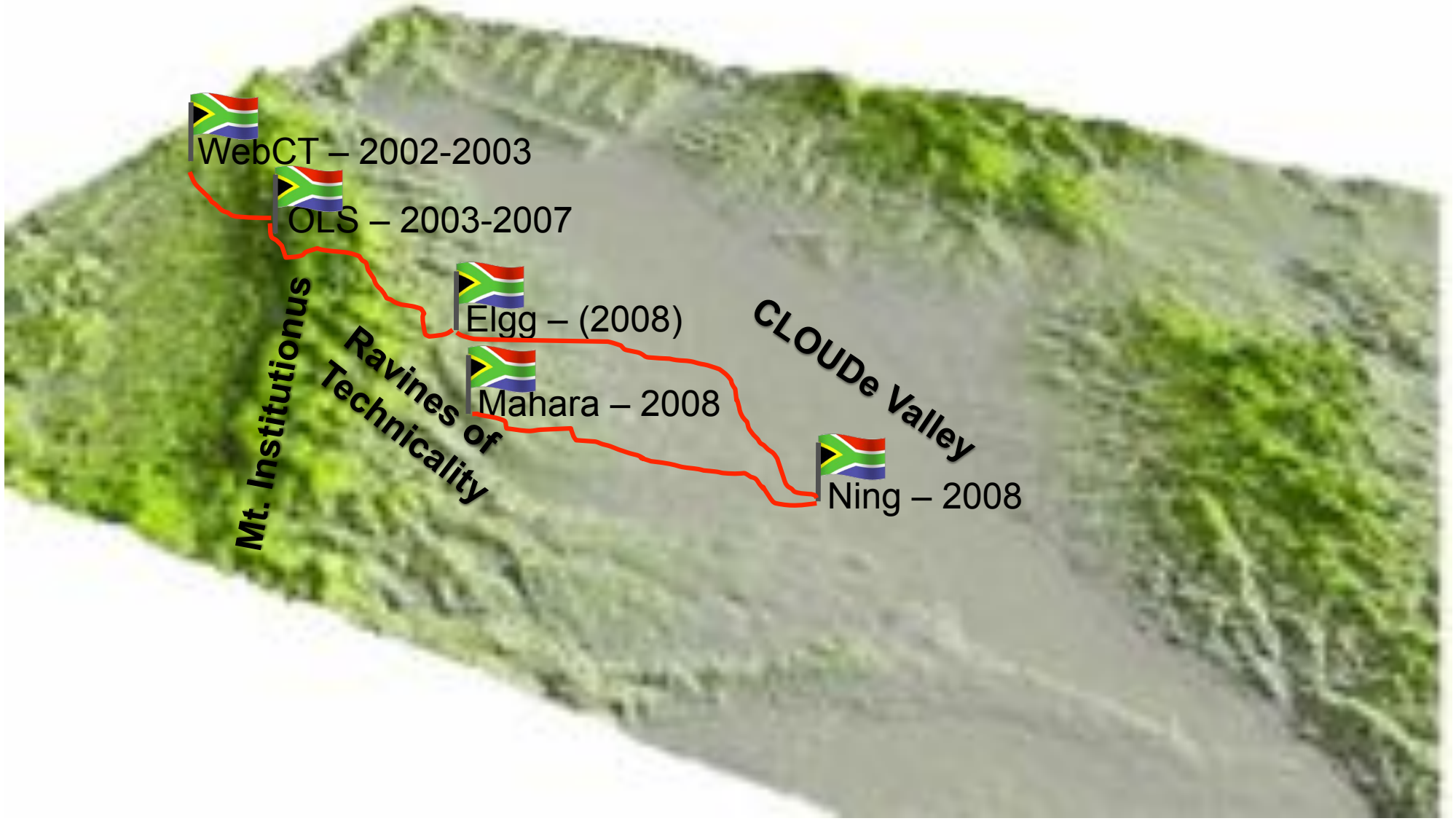
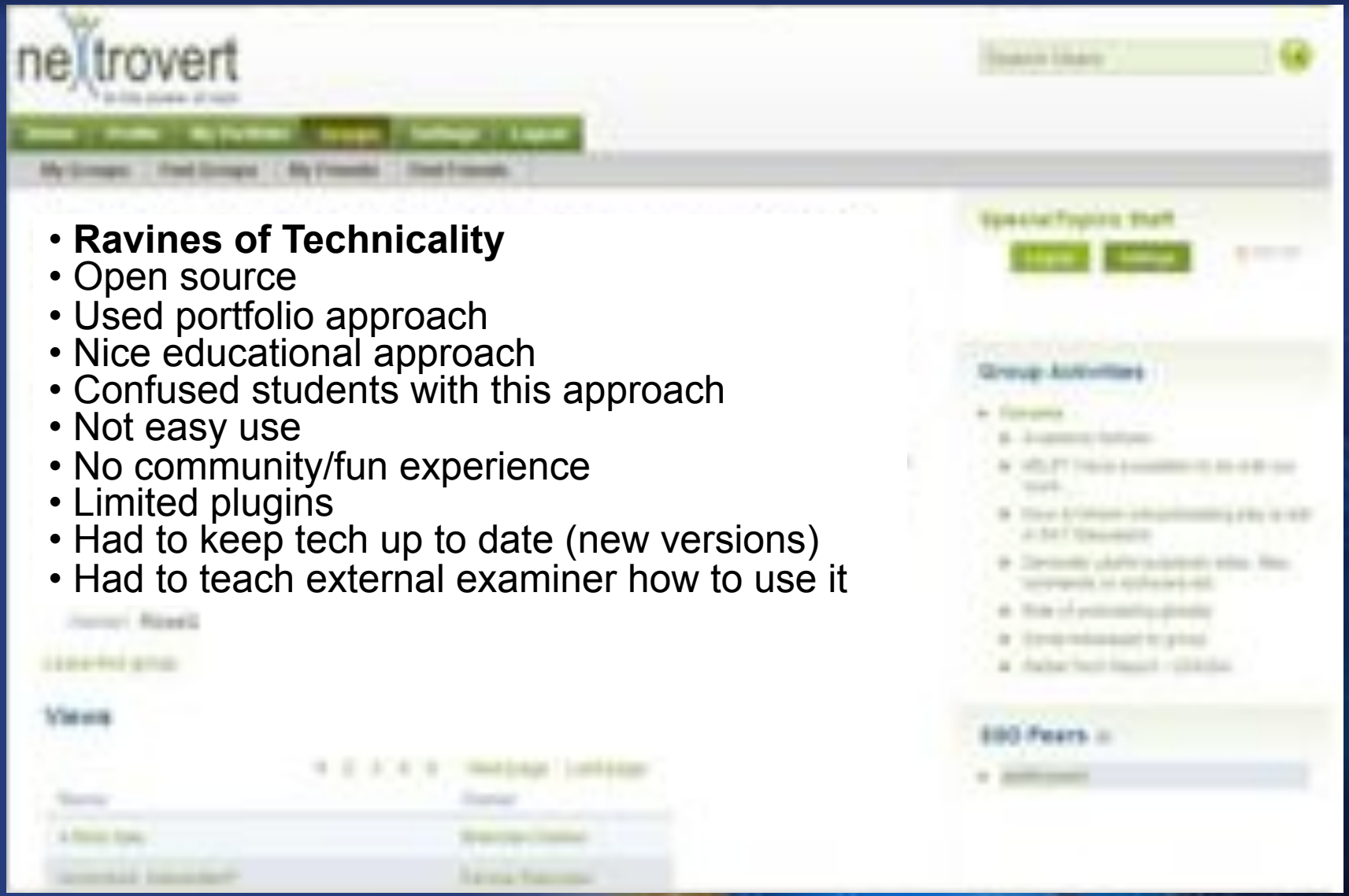


Mahara



- **Ravines of Technicality**
- Open source
- Used portfolio approach
- Nice educational approach
- Confused students with this approach
- Not easy use
- No community/fun experience
- Limited plugins
- Had to keep tech up to date (new versions)
- Had to teach external examiner how to use it

Our VLE Journey to iTopia

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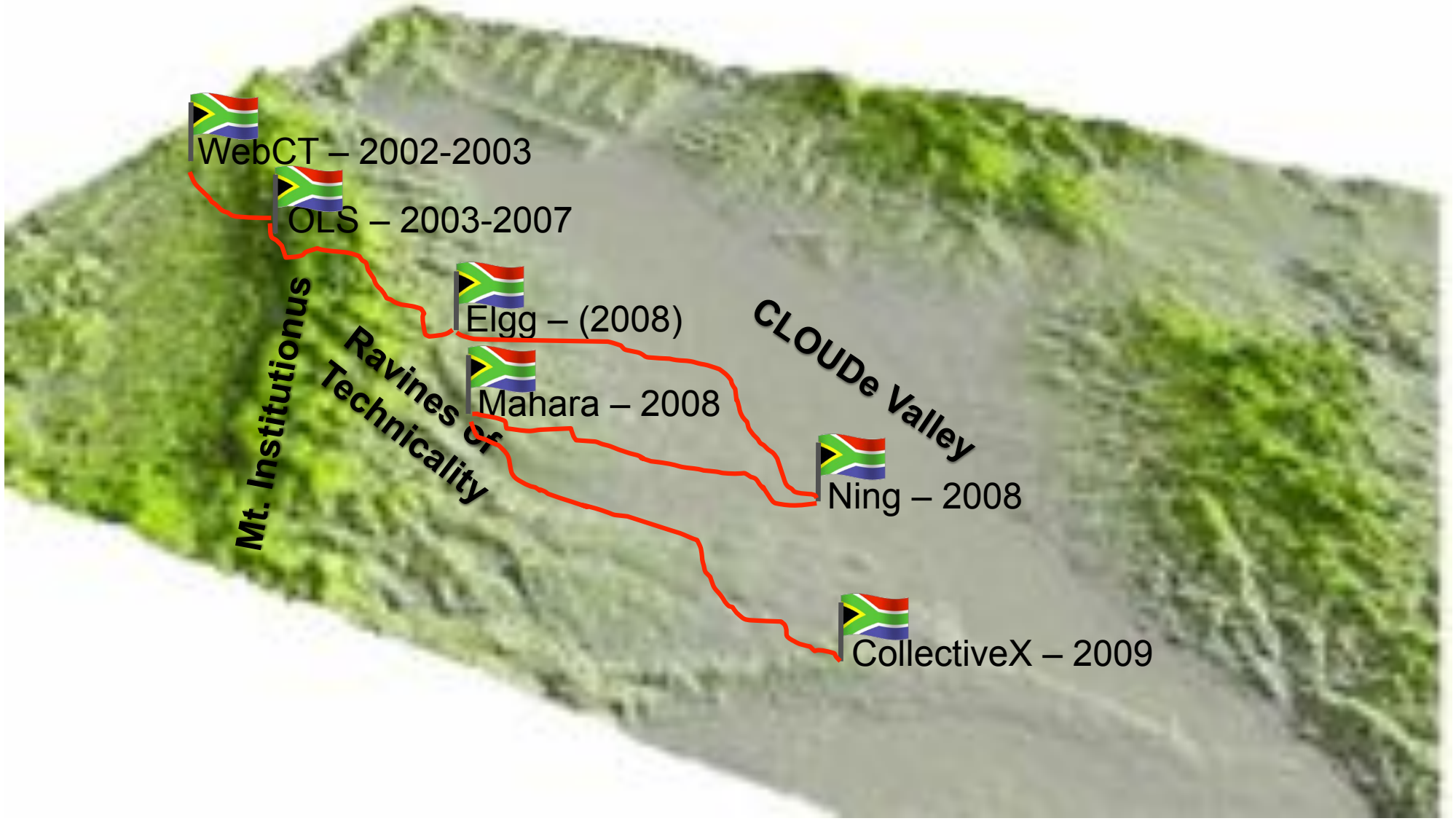


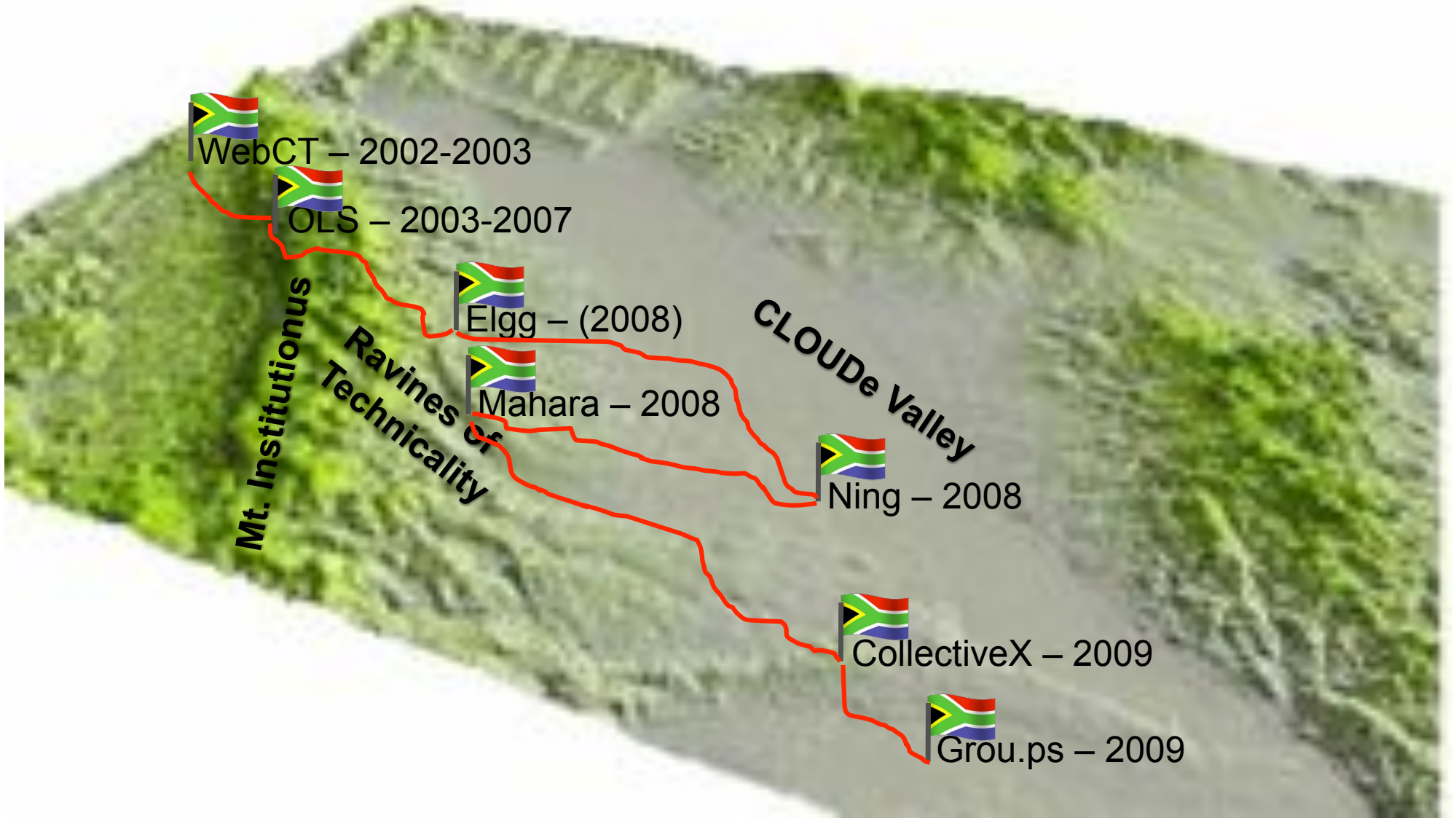
CollectiveX

nextrovert.collectivex.com

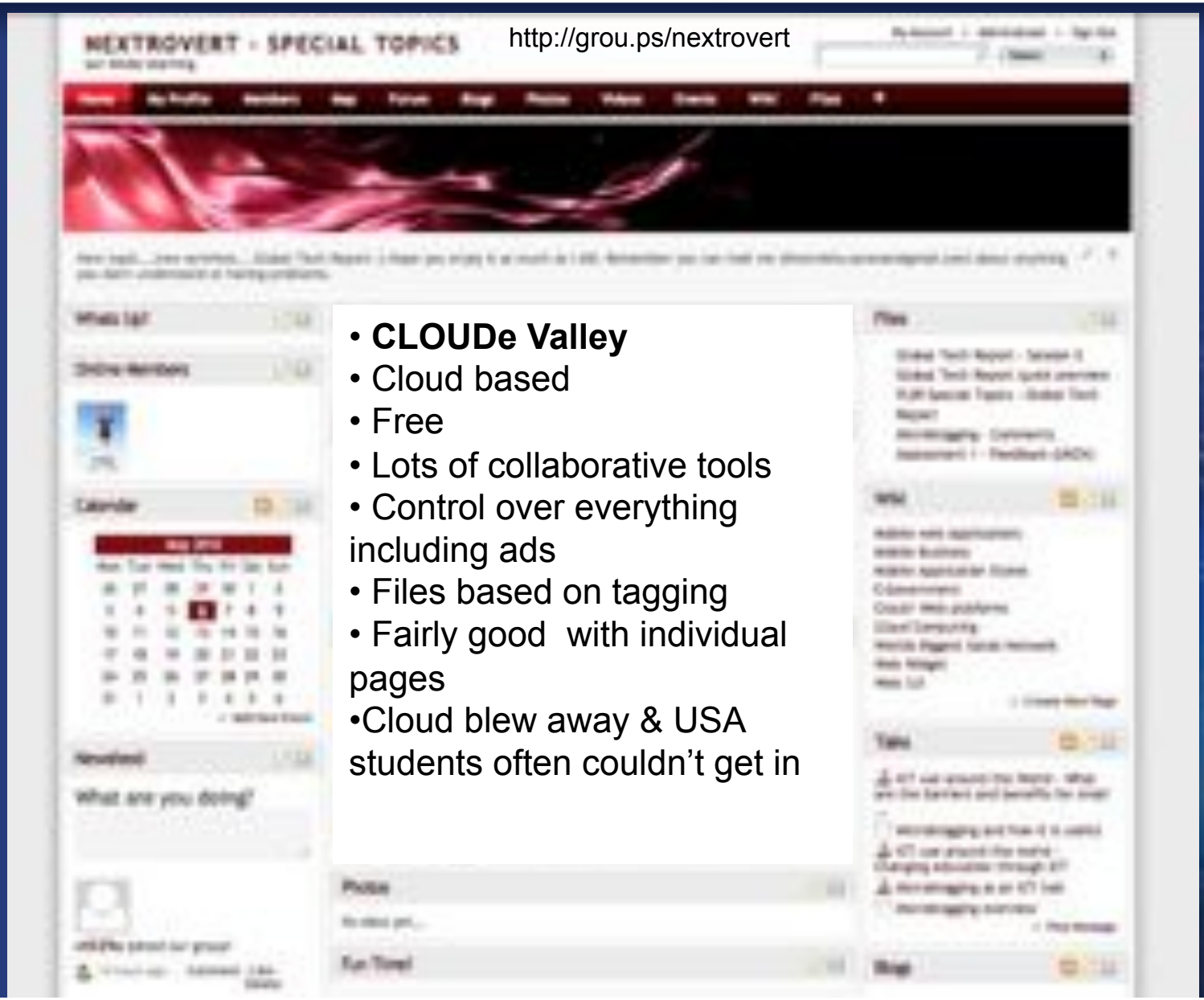
- **CLOUDe Valley**
- Bland – no real community feel
- No stamping own personality
- Layout restrictive
- Plugins limited
- Storage/bandwidth costly

Our VLE Journey to iTopia

éducation sans frontières



Grou.ps


NEXTROVERT - SPECIAL TOPICS
http://grou.ps/nextrovert
• **CLOUDe Valley**
• Cloud based
• Free
• Lots of collaborative tools
• Control over everything including ads
• Files based on tagging
• Fairly good with individual pages
•Cloud blew away & USA students often couldn't get in

Our VLE Journey to iTopia

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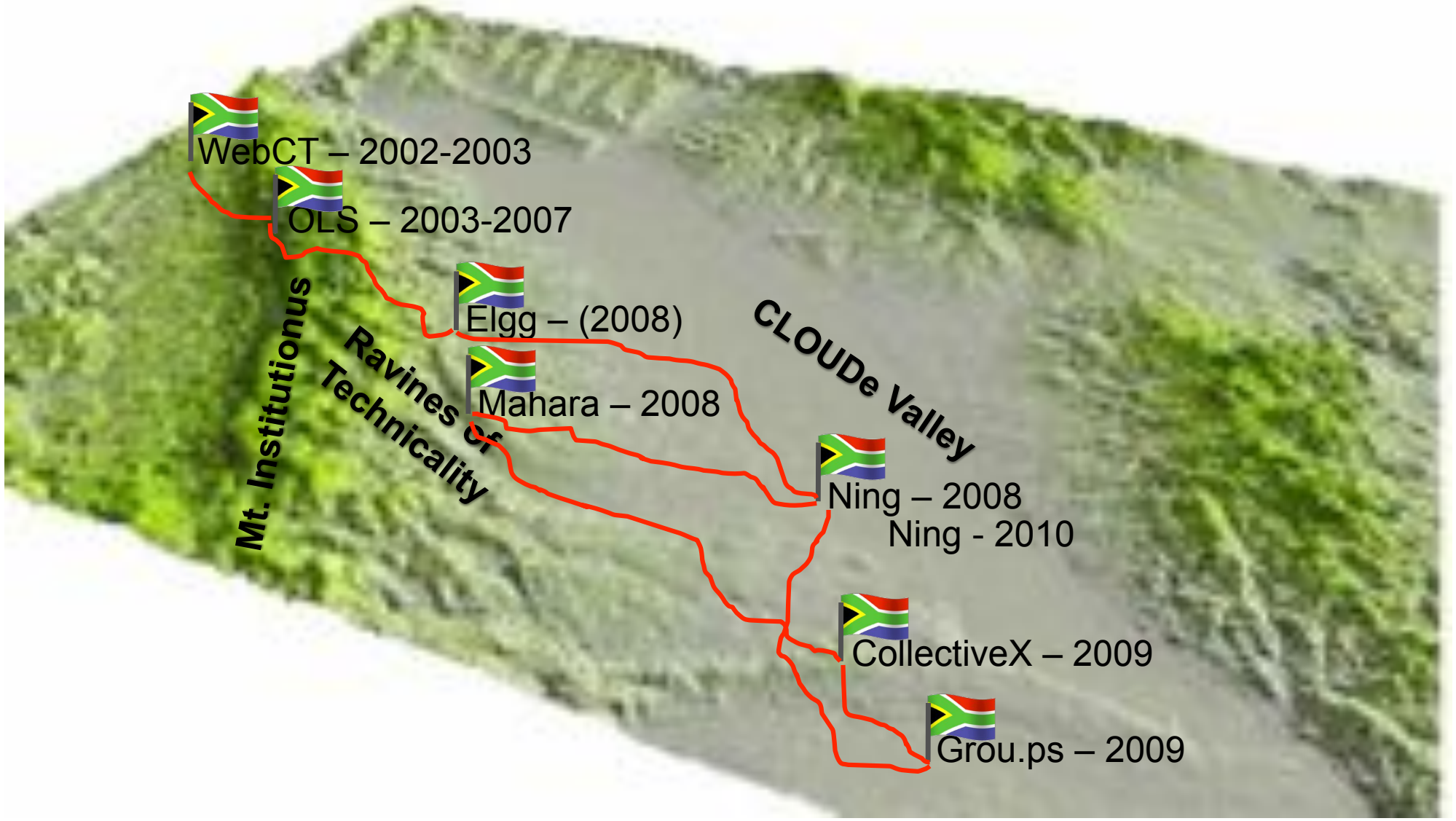


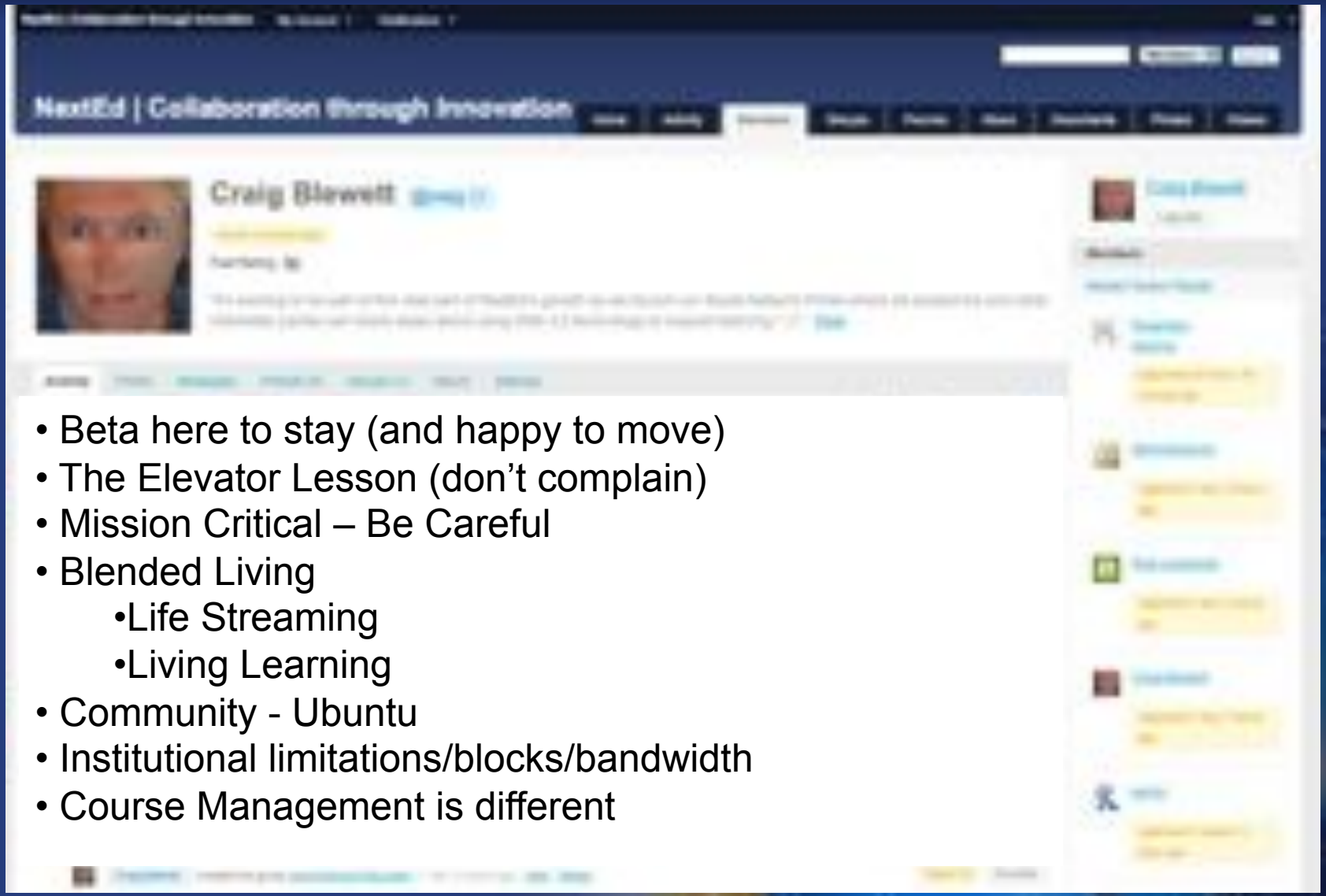
Ning

- returNING 2 **CLOUDe Valley**
- Even more plugins
- File system still clunky
- Lots of freedom for creation of identity
- Can choose own skins etc
- The best embedded chat (others didn't have or didn't work well)
- Nearly 1000 blog posts in 10 weeks
- No Free Ning

Have we found iTopia?

But, we're developing a map…

Key Lessons - *éducation sans frontières*



- Beta here to stay (and happy to move)
- The Elevator Lesson (don't complain)
- Mission Critical – Be Careful
- Blended Living
    - Life Streaming
    - Living Learning
- Community - Ubuntu
- Institutional limitations/blocks/bandwidth
- Course Management is different

NextEd Initiative

- Funded by AAU
- 2 Year Project
- Collaboration with universities around world
- Vision
  - Setup a global, virtual educational network, built on an ubuntu philosophy of collaboration and a scaffolded model of supportive engagement.

University 2.0 Project

2Togethger to iTopia

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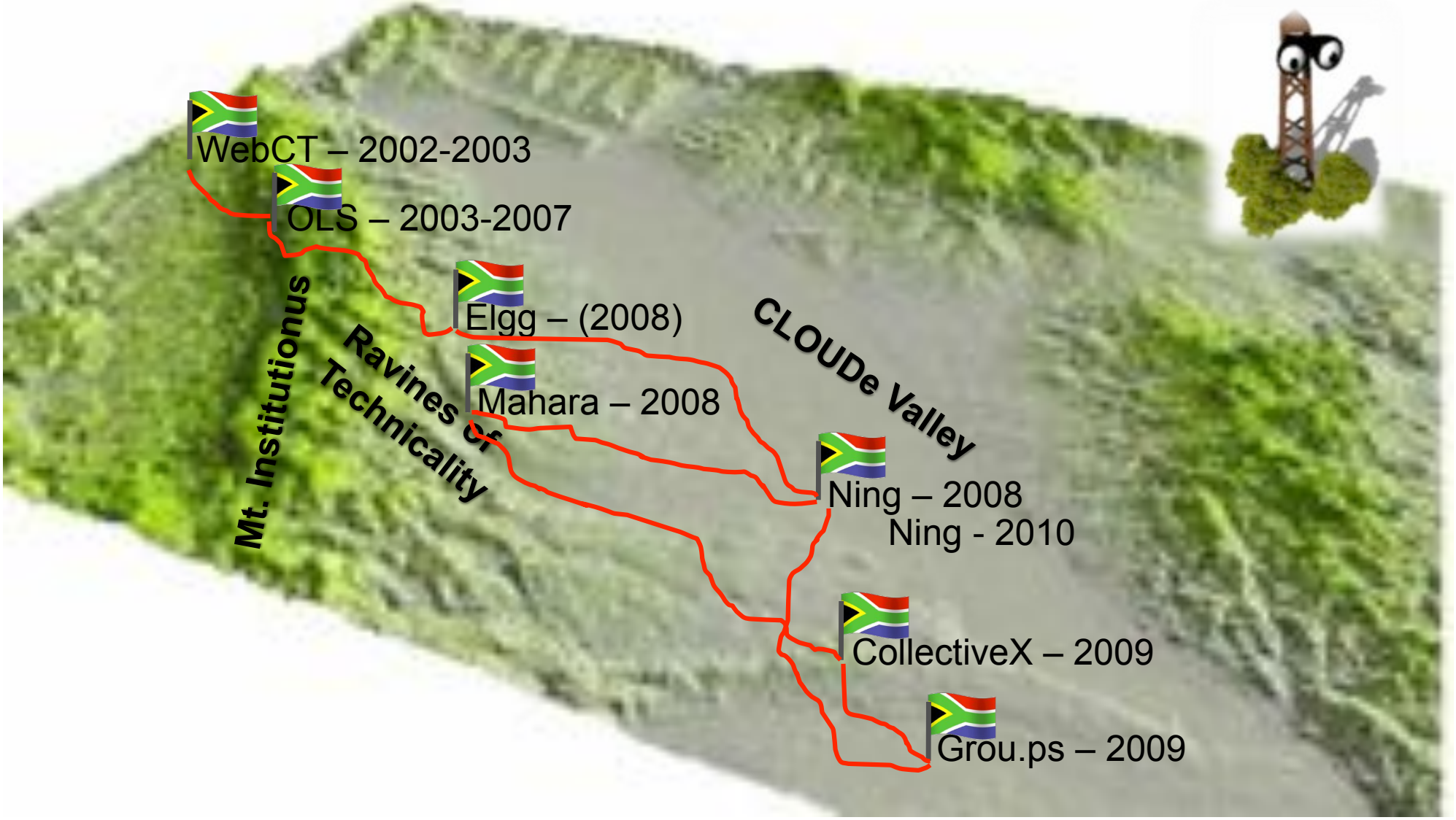
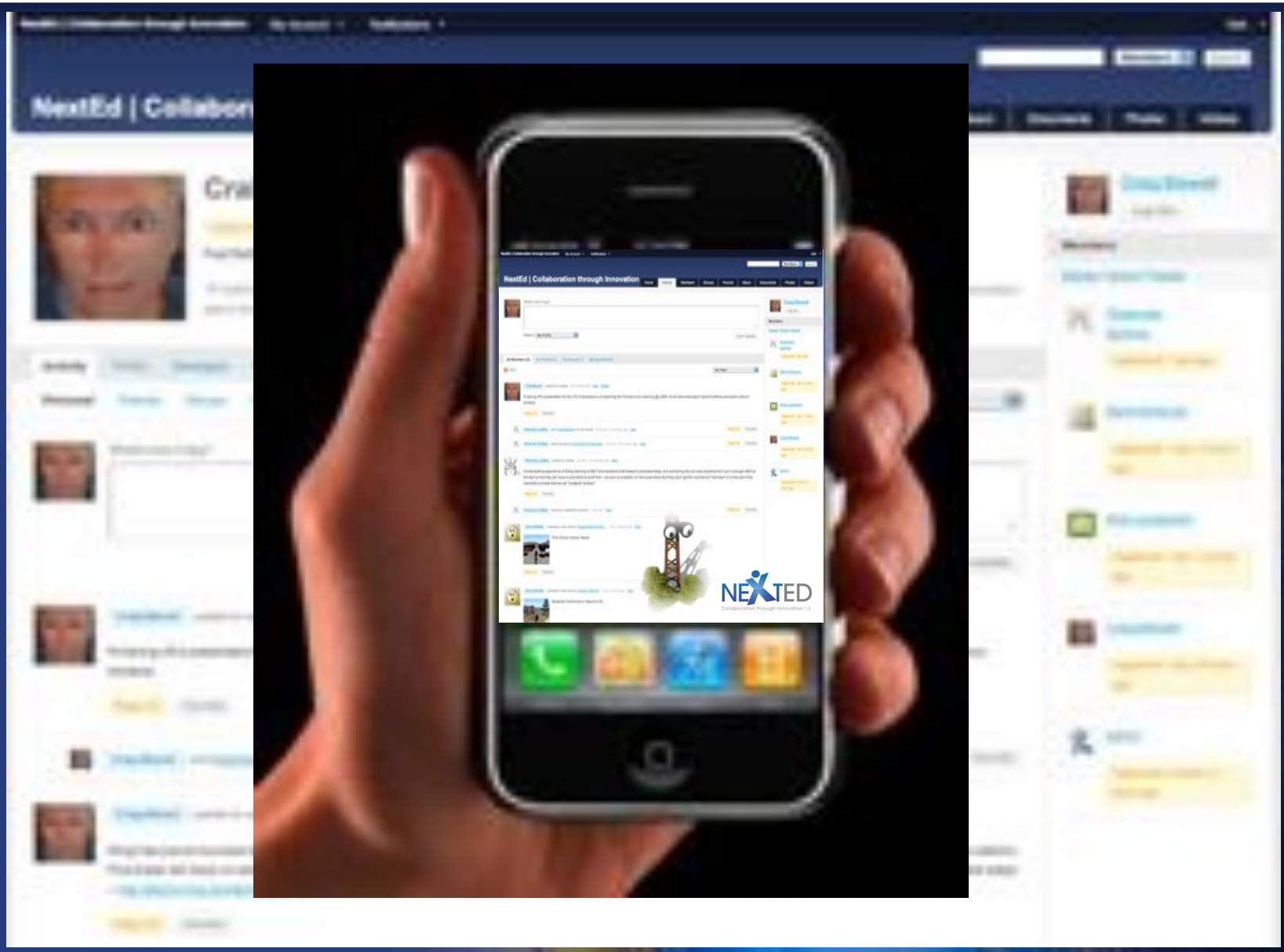
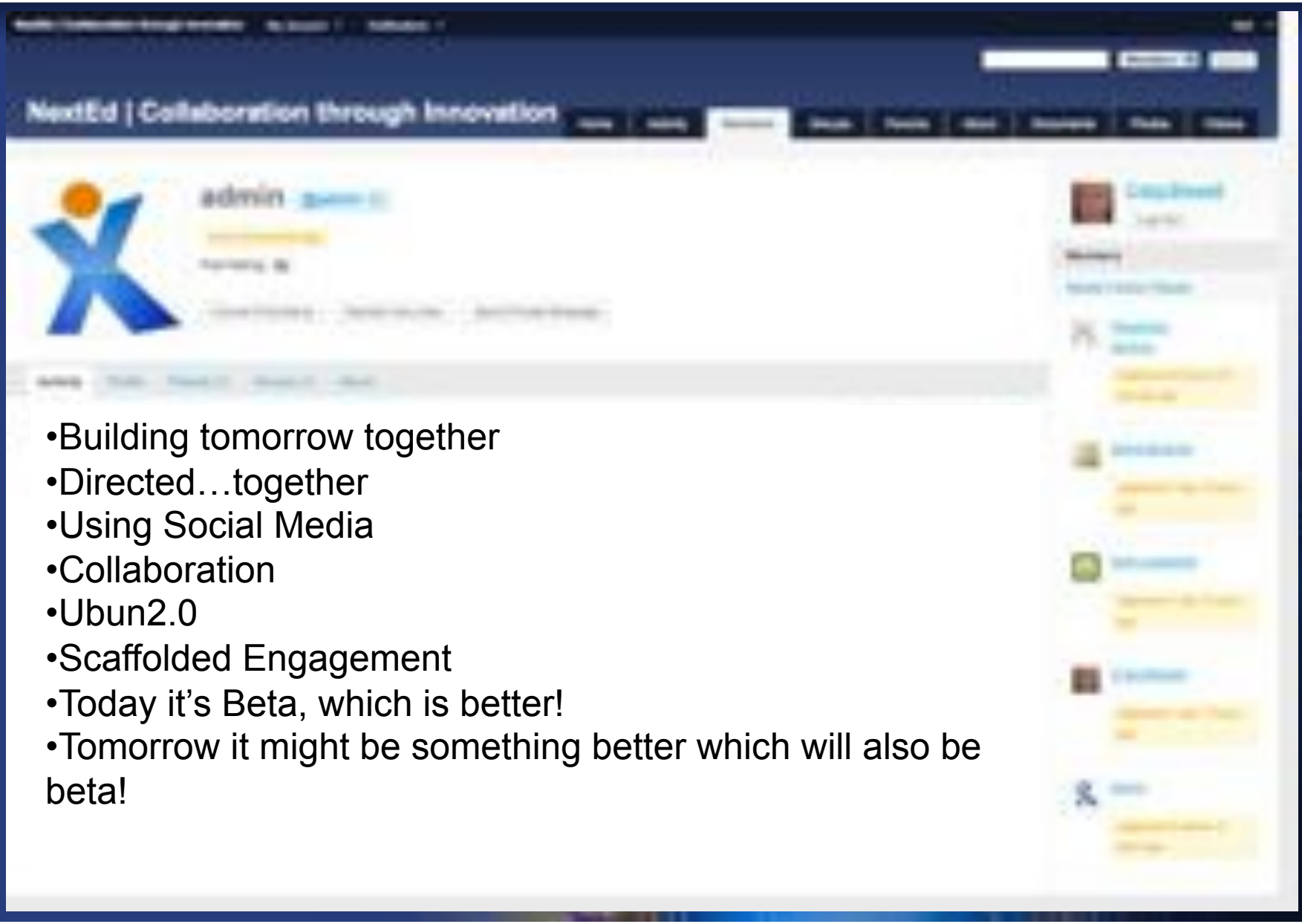


NextEd.info – Educator Collaboration

Groups, Forums, Blogs, Tweets…brain stream



NextEd Ubun2.0



- Building tomorrow together
- Directed…together
- Using Social Media
- Collaboration
- Ubun2.0
- Scaffolded Engagement
- Today it's Beta, which is better!
- Tomorrow it might be something better which will also be beta!

The times…they are a changing…

Or are you still wondering what they will do when they run out of iPads?
Are you coming?
Stepping into new frontiers