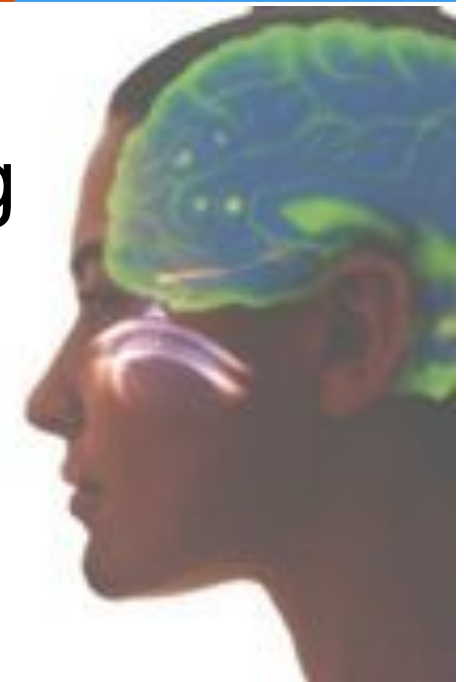




Exploring the Frontiers of e-Learning @ UKZN 2010

Teaching and Learning Portal: Learning and Sharing Blewett & Quilling



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 .

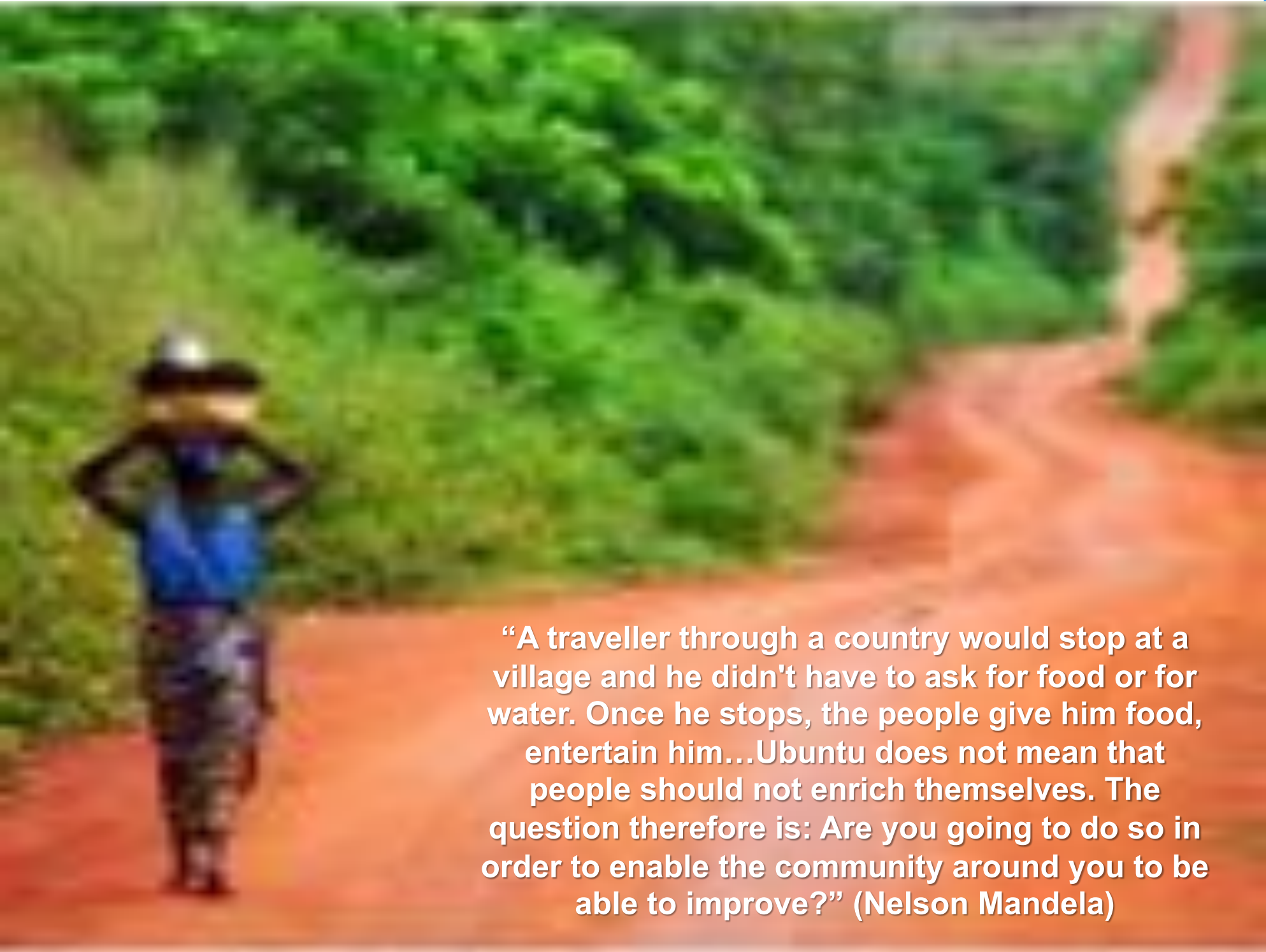


Web 2.0 Technologies

+

Sharing amongst equals



A person wearing a blue shirt and dark pants stands on a red dirt path, looking towards the camera. The background is a dense, green forest. The path is made of reddish-brown earth and leads into the distance.

“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



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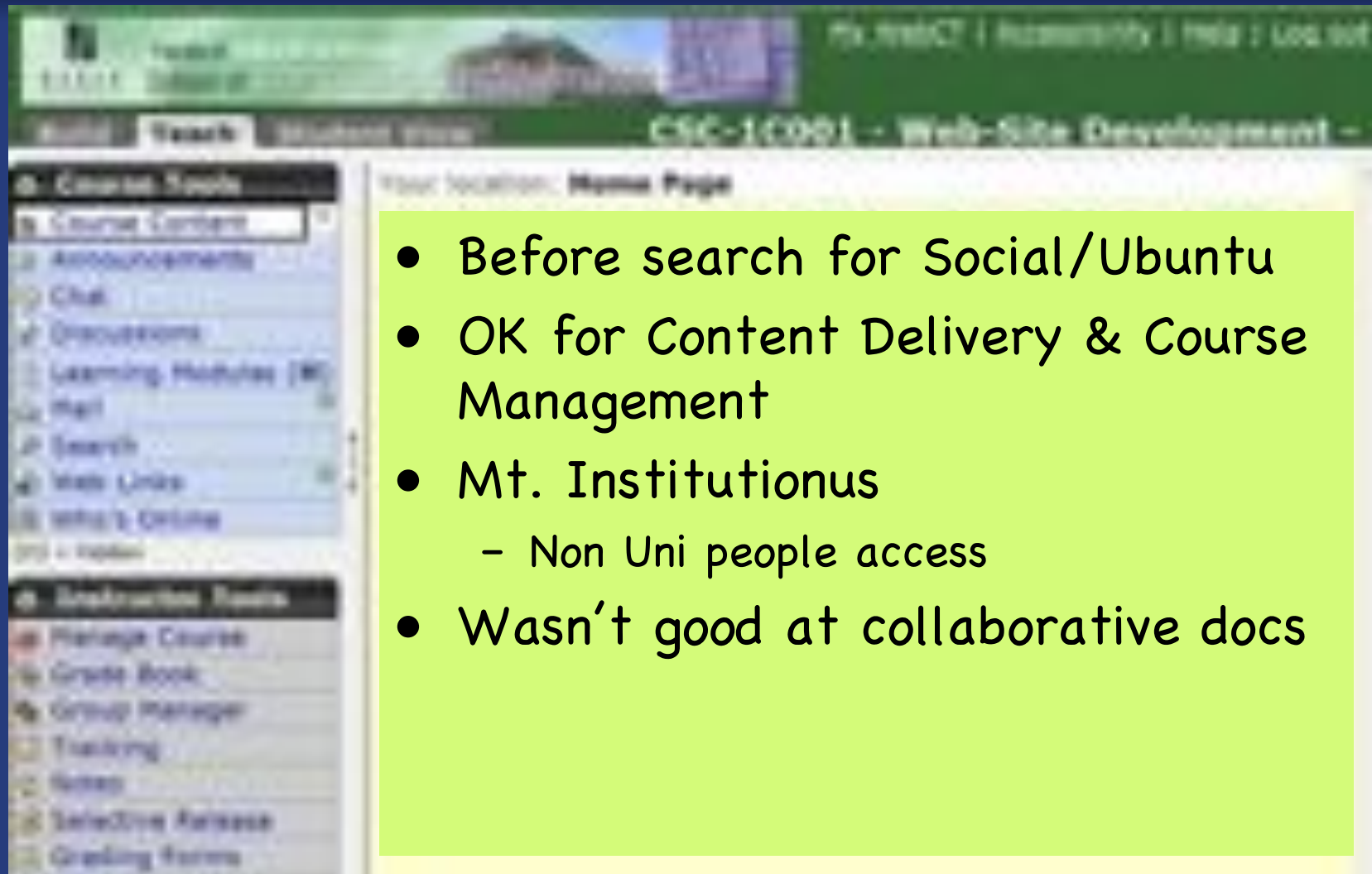
WebCT – 2002-2003

Mt. Institutionus

**Ravines of
Technicality**

CLOUDe Valley

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



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WebCT – 2002-2003



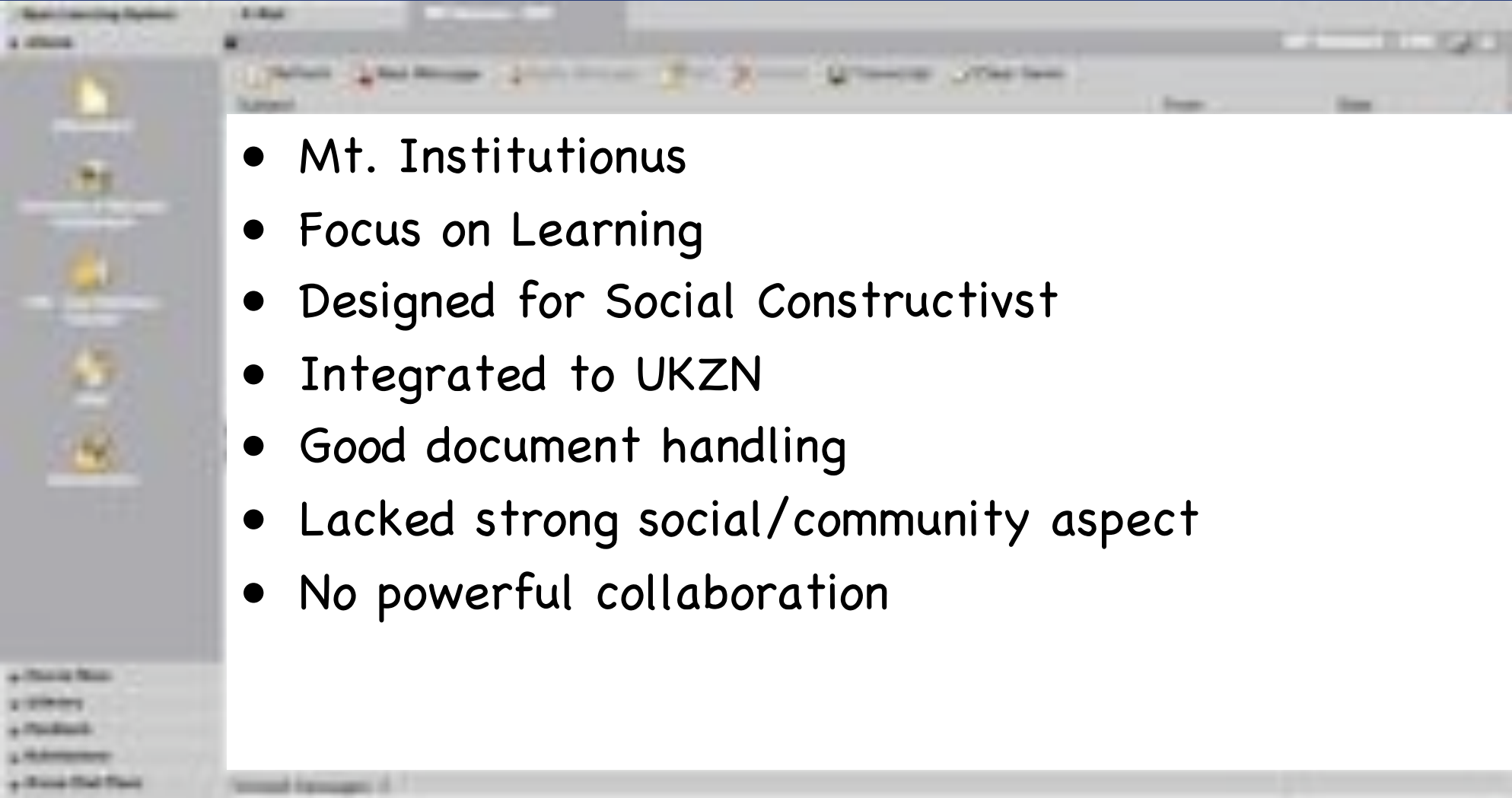
OLS – 2003-2007

Mt. Institutionus

**Ravines of
Technicality**

CLOUDe Valley

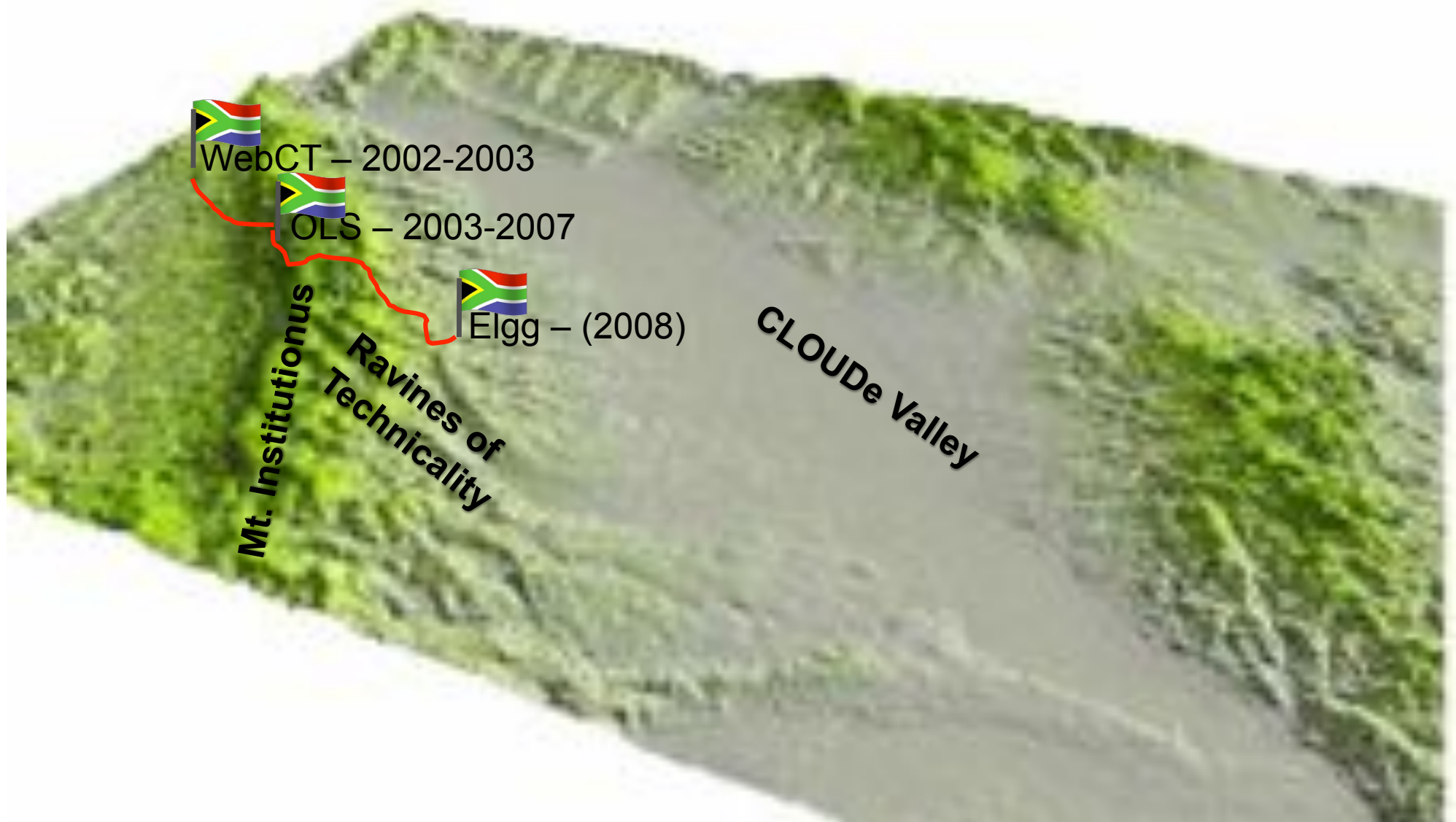
OLS

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

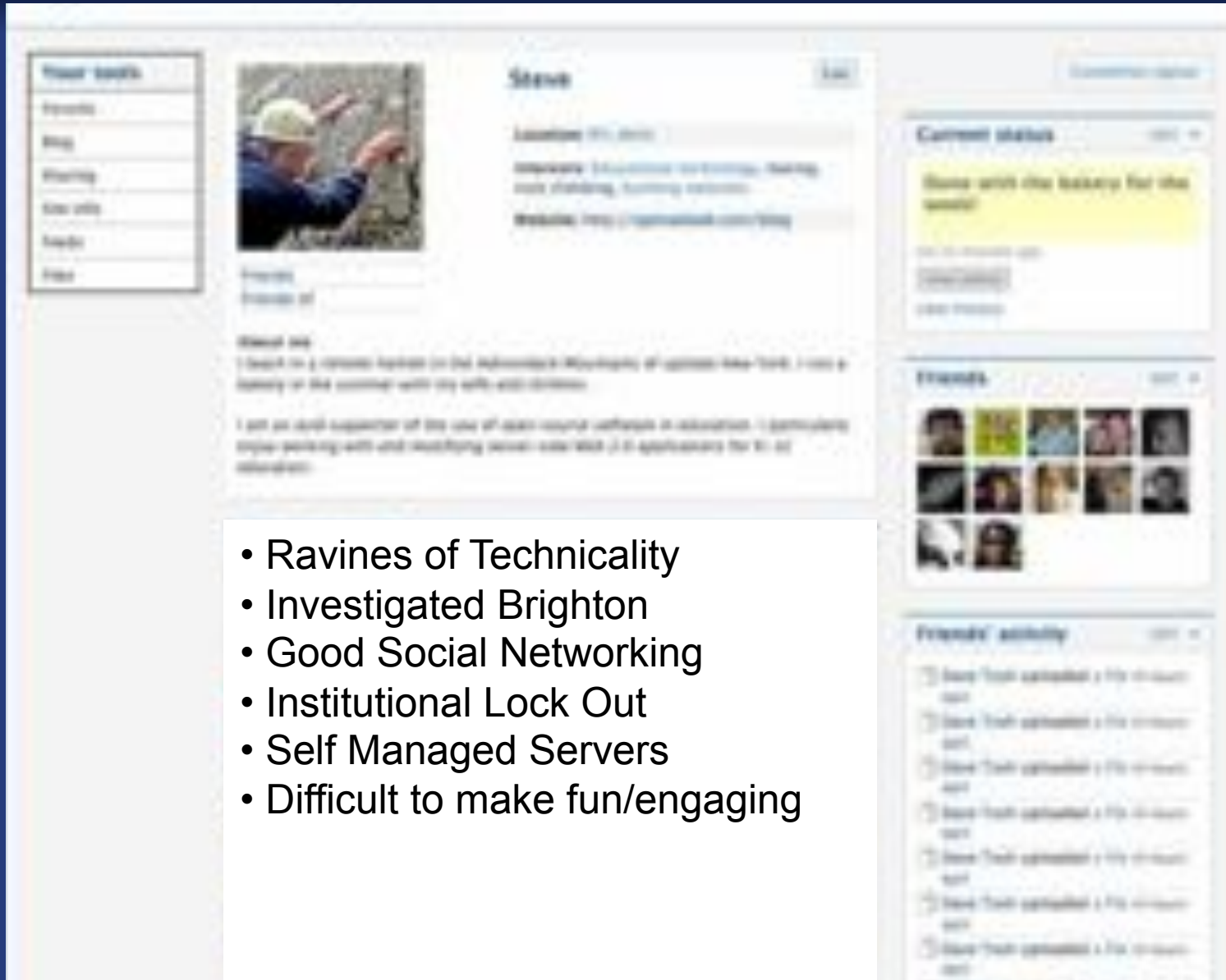
Our VLE Journey to iTopia



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Elgg



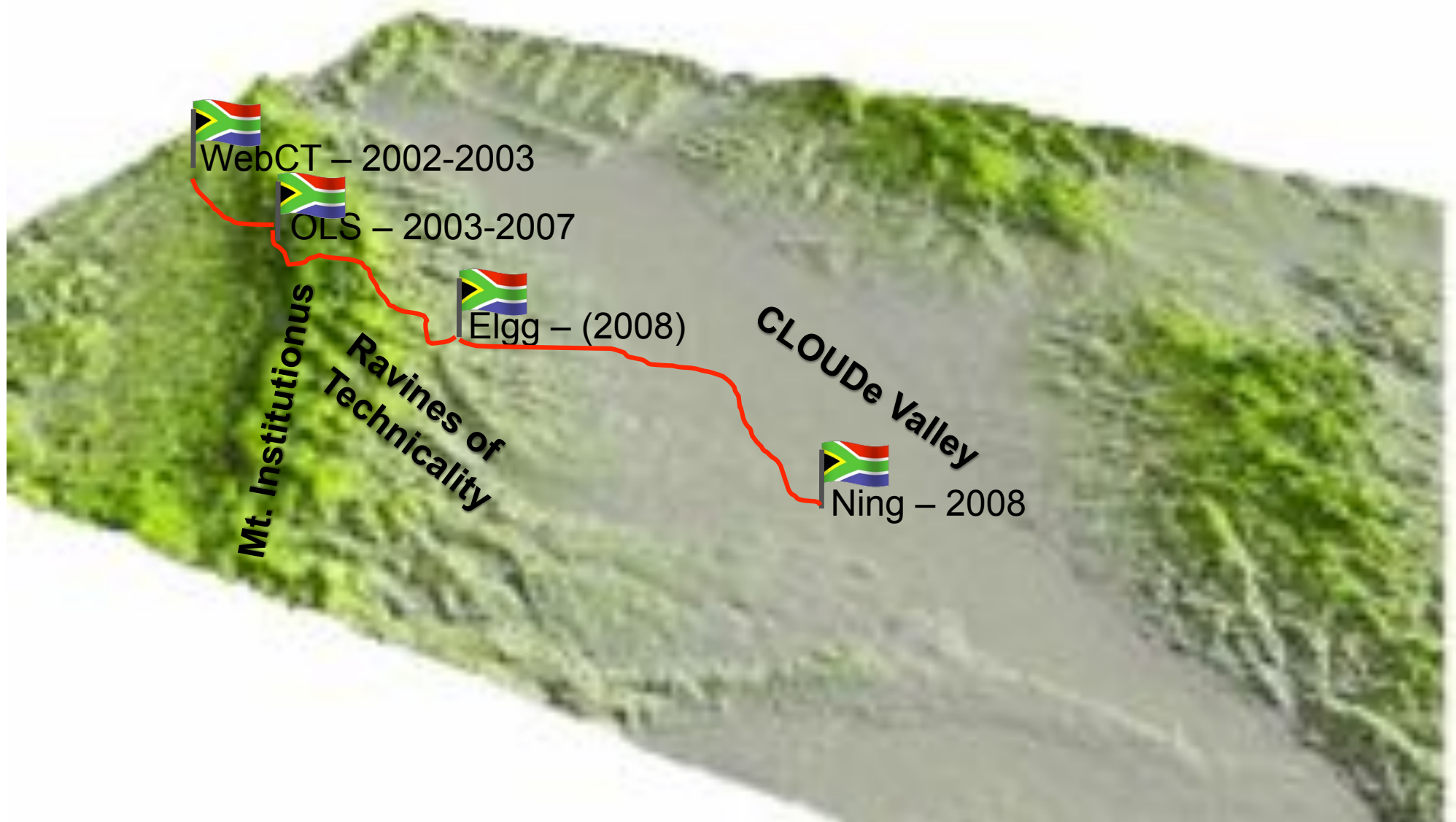
The screenshot shows a user profile for 'Steve' on the Elgg platform. The profile includes a profile picture of a person wearing a hard hat, a bio, and a list of friends. The bio mentions 'I work in a remote location on the Hudson River...'. The friends list shows several avatars. The 'Current status' section has a yellow background with the text 'Have with the backup for the week!'. The 'Friends' activity section shows a list of updates from friends, all starting with 'Have been updated a file in my...'. The left sidebar contains a 'Recent activity' section with links to 'Home', 'Blog', 'Groups', 'Users', and 'Files'.

- 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



Bilal Docraft's Page

Recent Activity

- 1. Bilal Docraft added the blog post "The Importance of Social Media" 10 days ago
- 2. Bilal Docraft added the blog post "The Importance of Social Media" 10 days ago
- 3. Bilal Docraft added the blog post "The Importance of Social Media" 10 days ago
- 4. Bilal Docraft added the blog post "The Importance of Social Media" 10 days ago

Profile

What are you doing with you trying to learn through this site? I am a student of the University of the Pacific and I am trying to learn through this site. I am a student of the University of the Pacific and I am trying to learn through this site. I am a student of the University of the Pacific and I am trying to learn through this site.

Standard Bank Credit Card

Choose the card that's right for you. No Transaction Fees. Apply online.

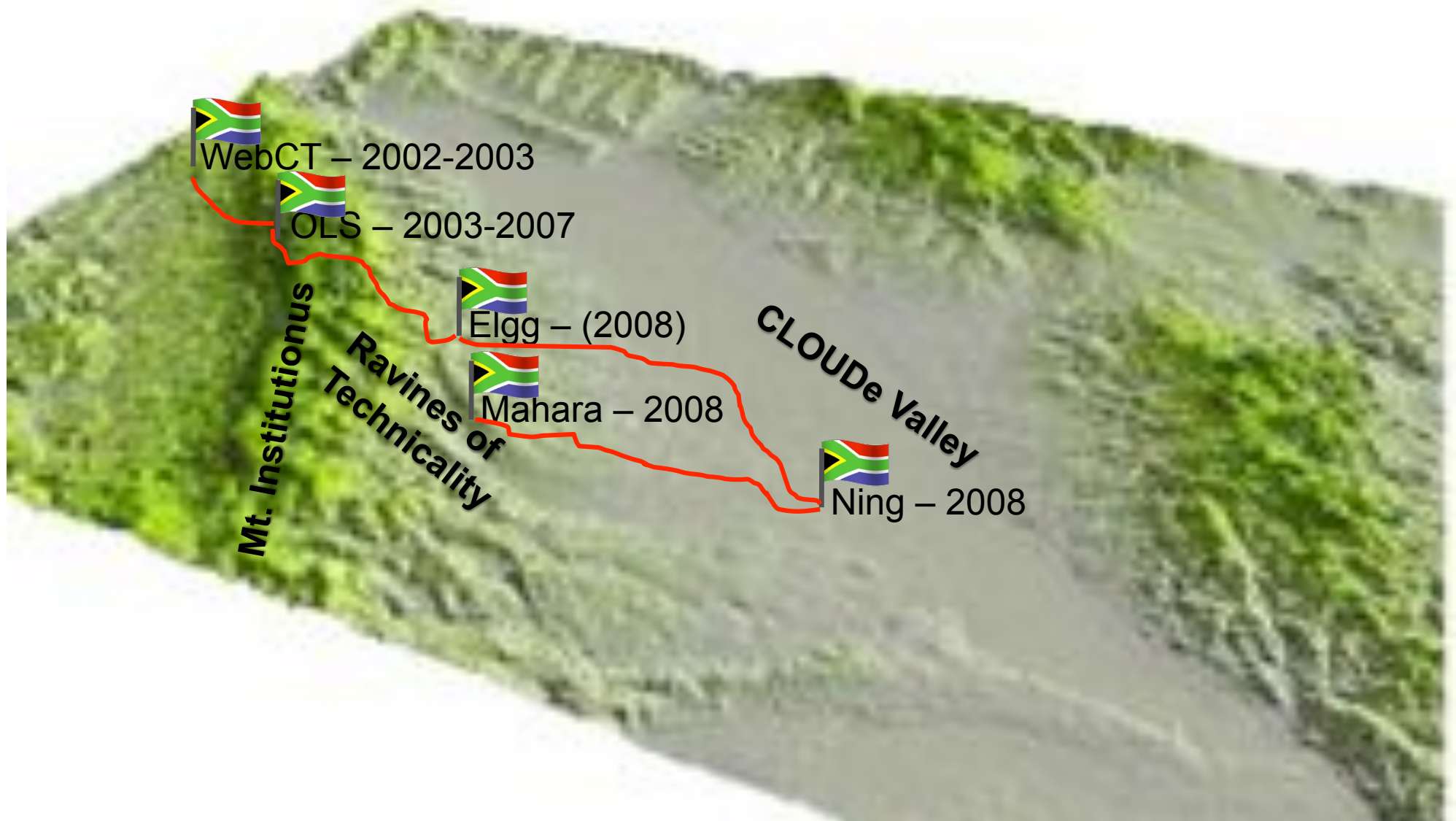
Recent Activity

- **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

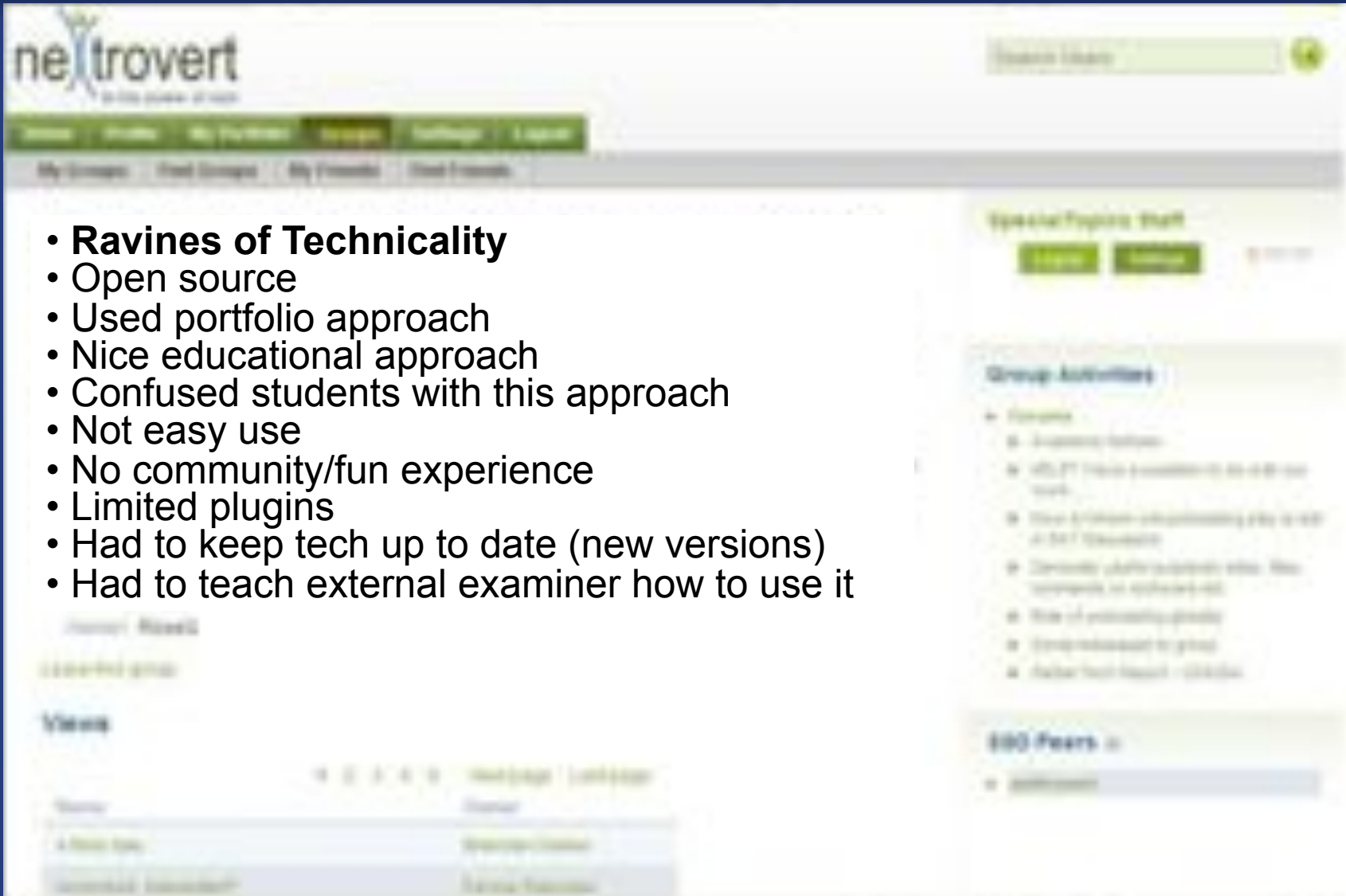


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Mahara

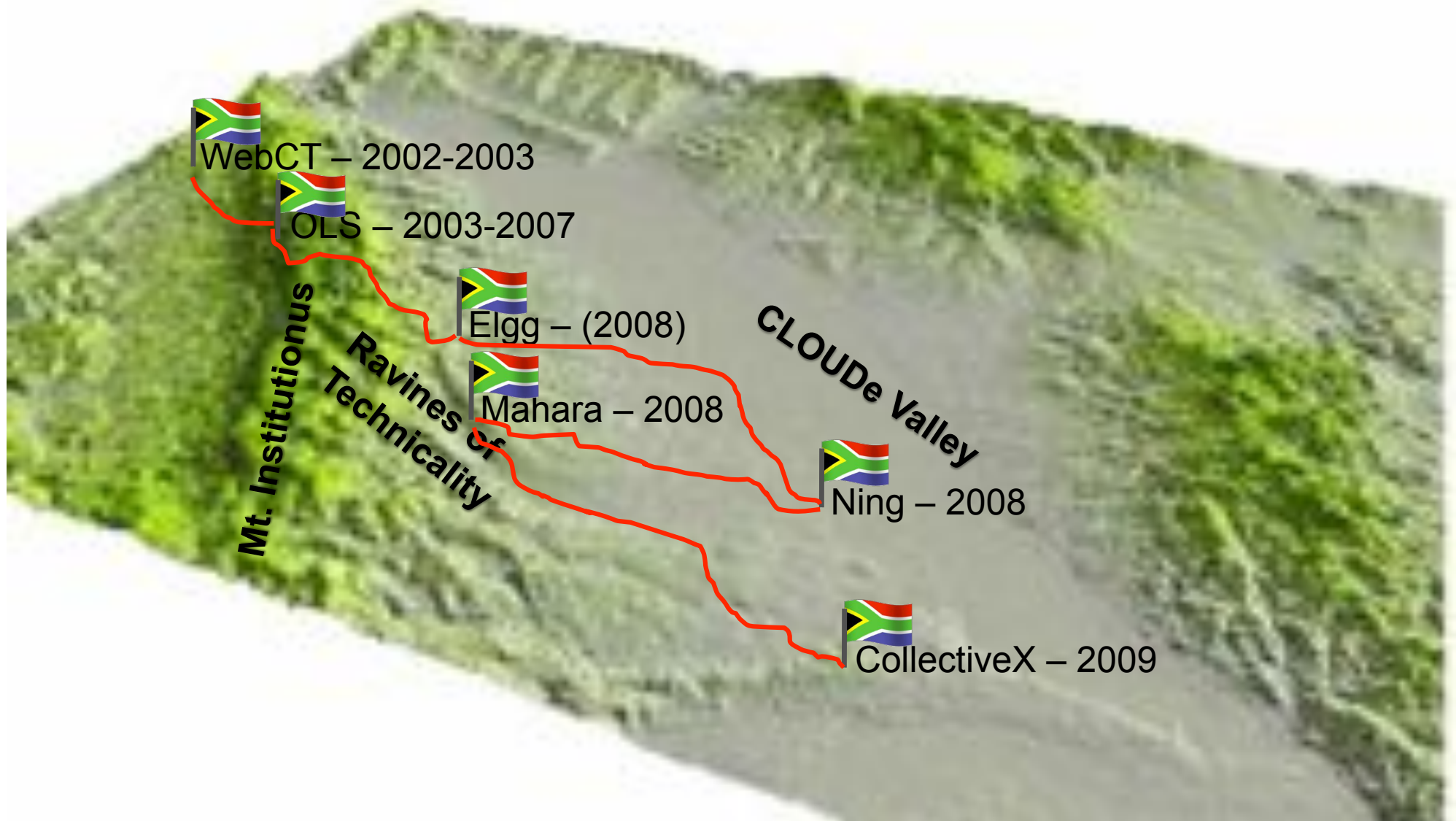
- **Ravines of Technicality**
- Open source
- Used portfolio approach
- Nice educational approach
- Confused students with this approach
- Not easy use
- No community/fun experience
- Limited plugins
- Had to keep tech up to date (new versions)
- Had to teach external examiner how to use it



Our VLE Journey to iTopia



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CollectiveX



nextrovert.collectivex.com

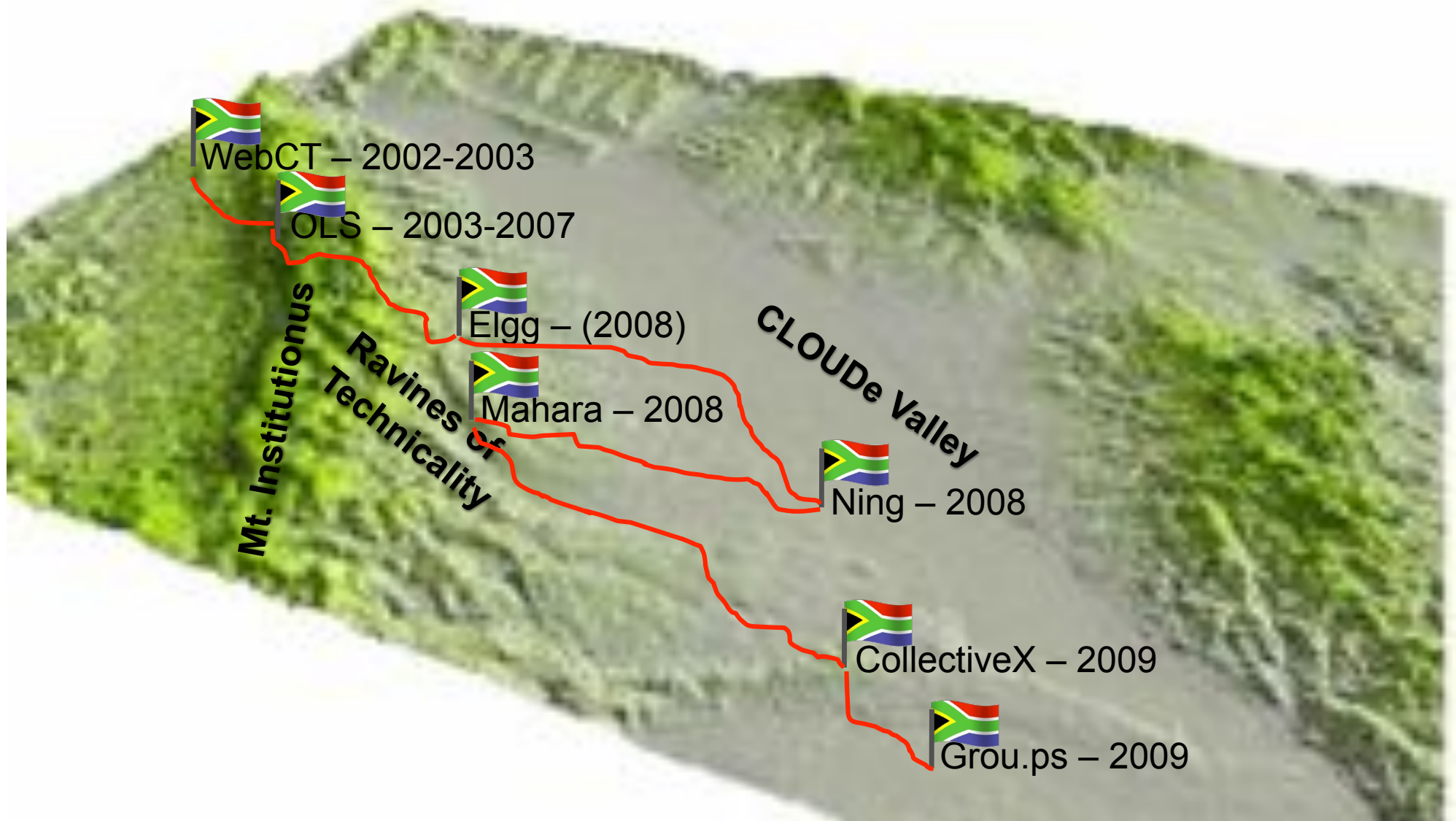
- **CLOUDe Valley**
- Bland – no real community feel
- No stamping own personality
- Layout restrictive
- Plugins limited
- Storage/bandwidth costly



Our VLE Journey to iTopia



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Grou.ps

<http://grou.ps/nextrovert>

NEXTROVERT - SPECIAL TOPICS
an NEXTED project

What's Up?

Online Members

Calendar

Files

Wiki

Photos

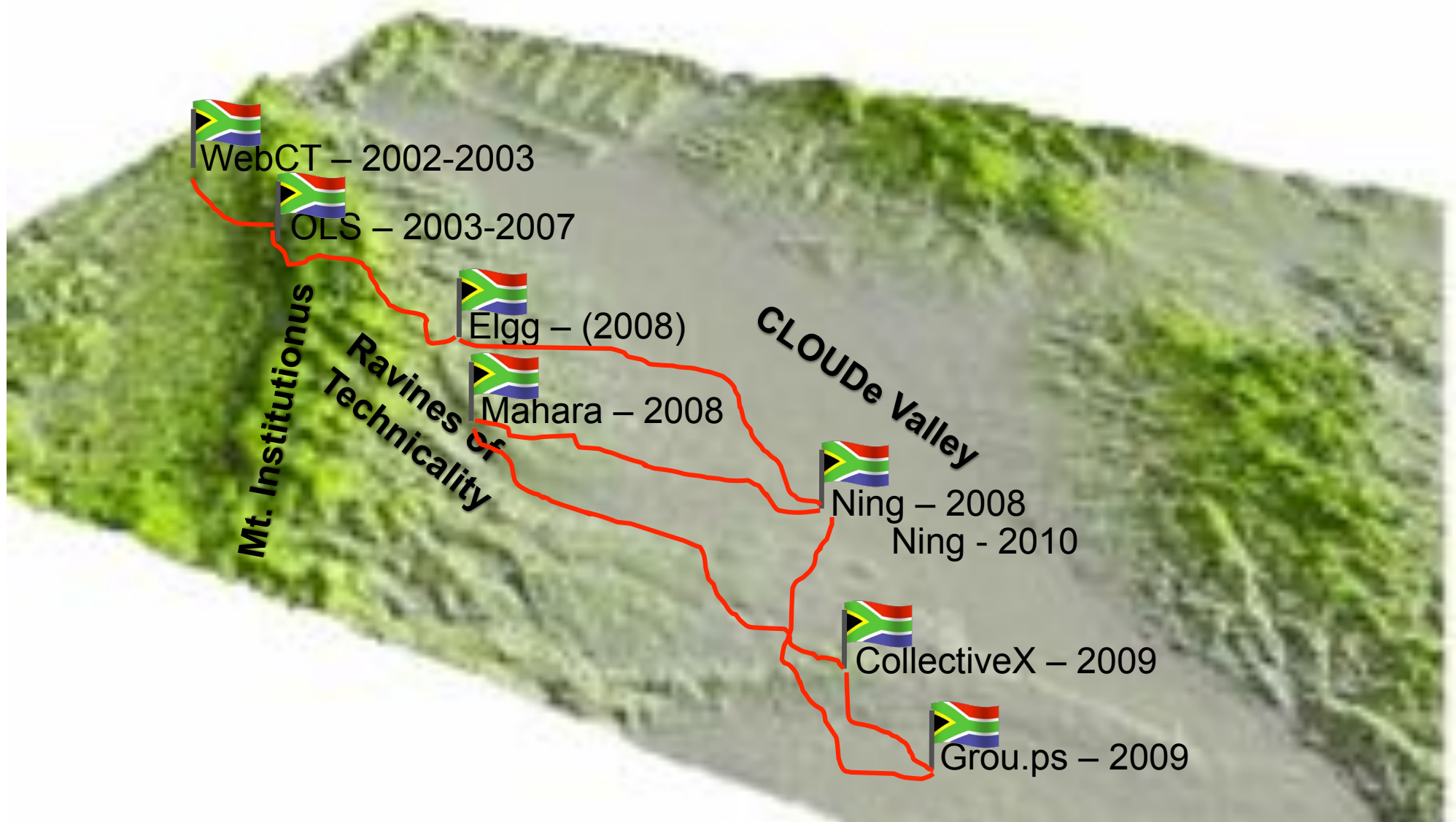
Fun Times

- **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



NextEd Ubun2.0

Collaborative Education through the power of Web 2.0

- 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

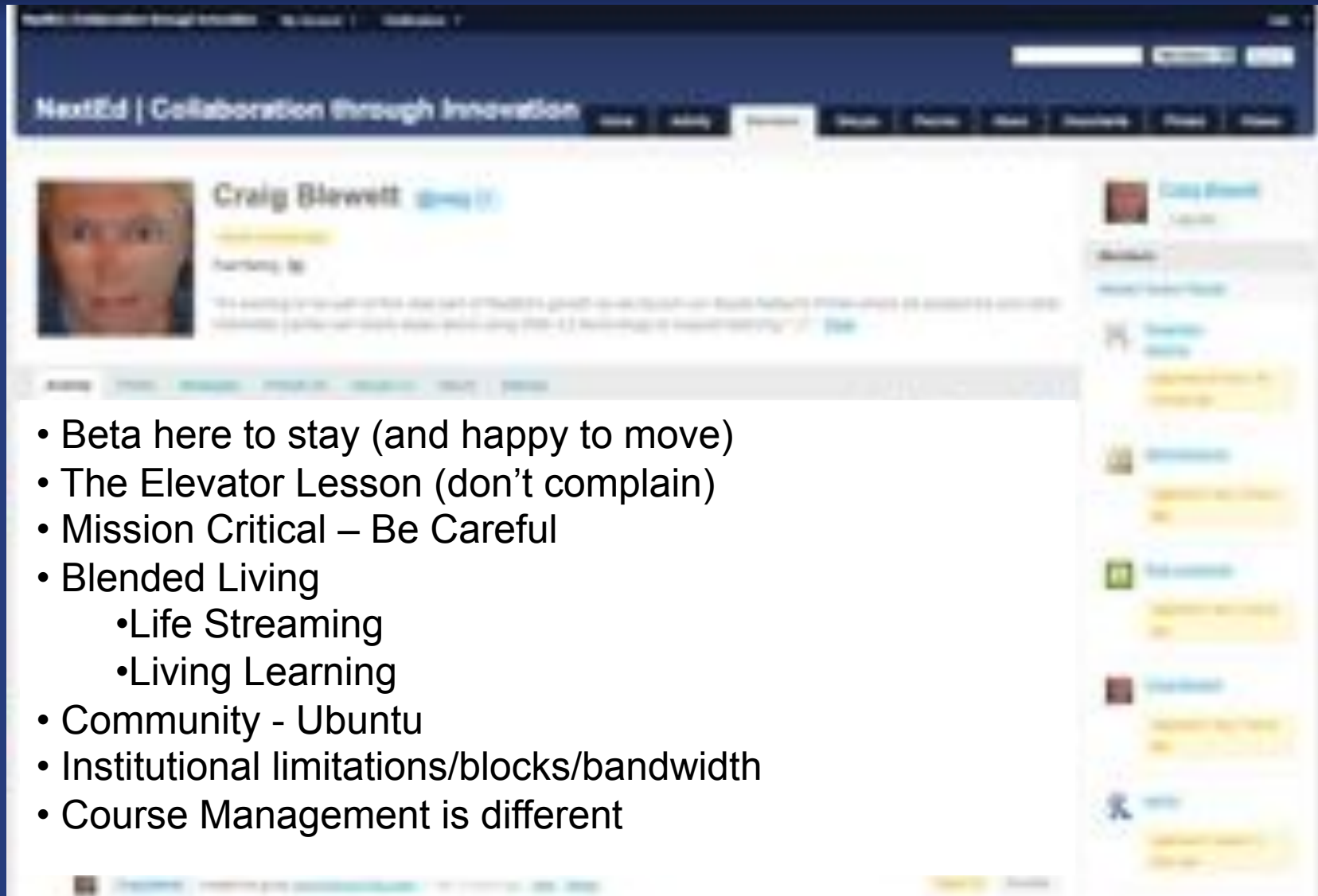
Have we found iTopia?



NO....

But, we're developing a map...

Key Lessons - *éducation sans frontières*

A screenshot of a web browser showing a user profile on the NextEd platform. The profile is for 'Craig Blewett' and includes a profile picture, a bio, and a list of activities or posts on the right side. The browser's address bar and various navigation buttons are visible at the top of the page.

NextEd | Collaboration through Innovation

Craig Blewett

Learning by

- 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.

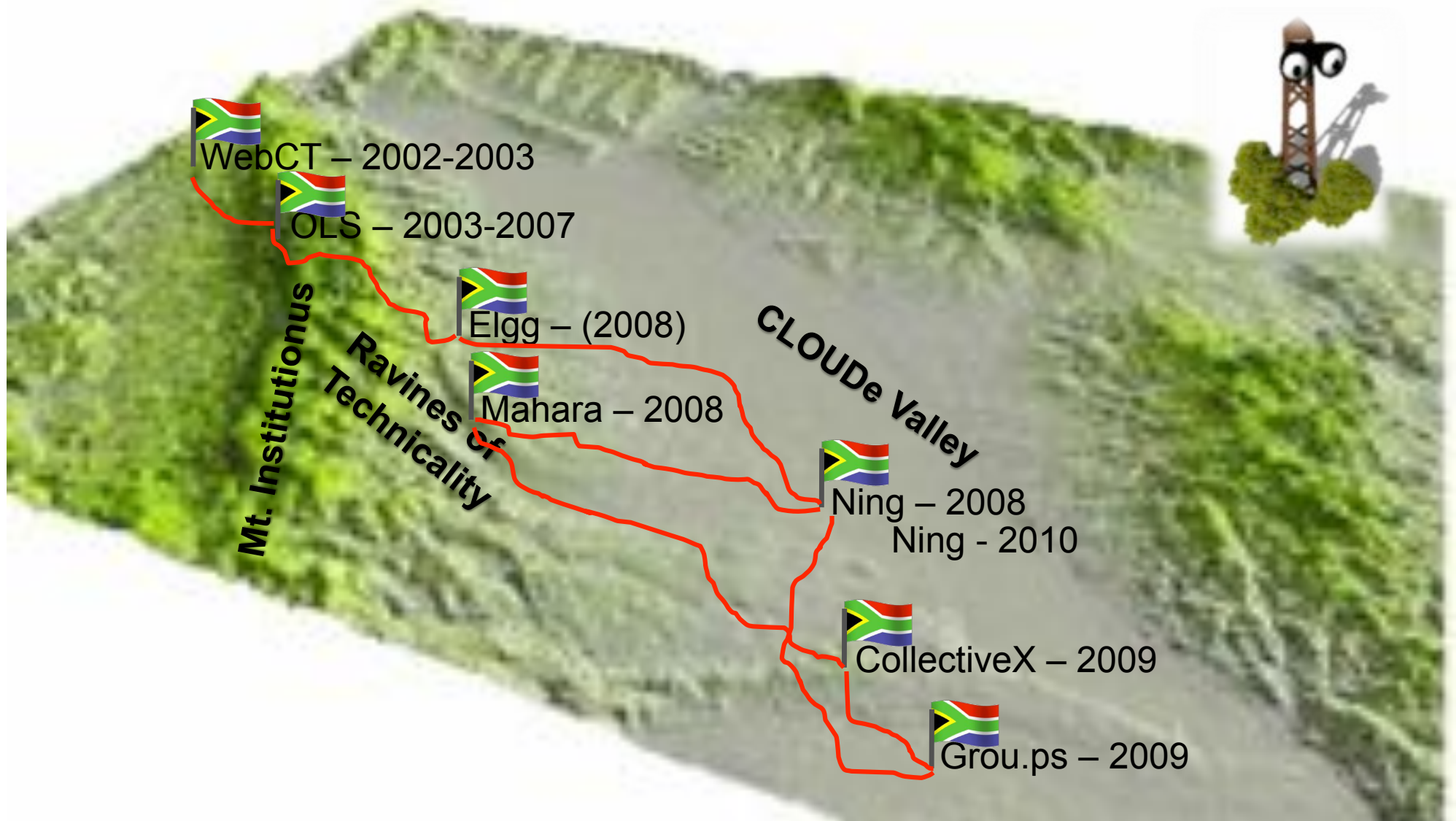
University 2.0 Project



2Together to iTopia



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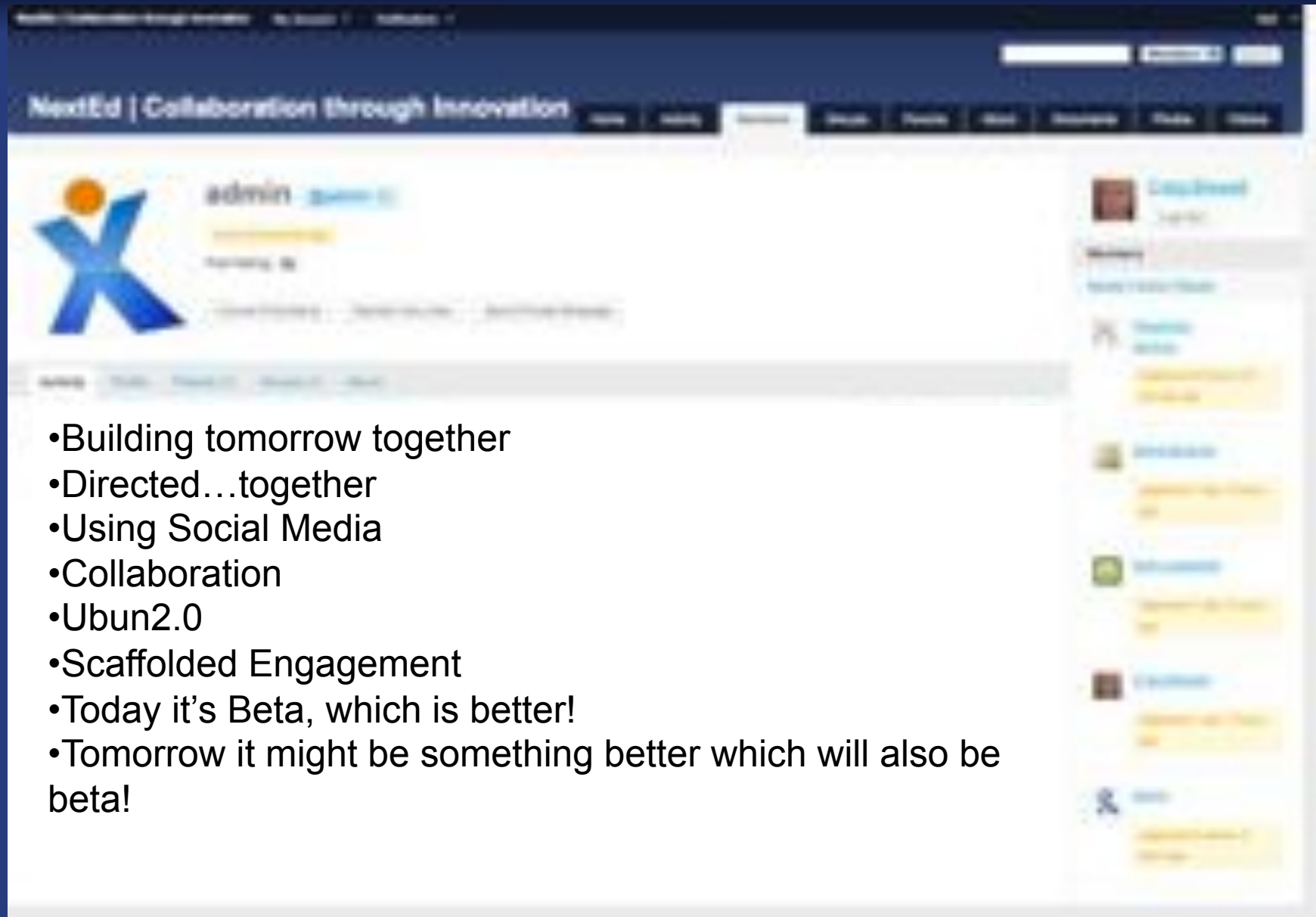
NextEd.info – Educator Collaboration



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...



A person with blonde hair, wearing a black t-shirt with a white logo and light-colored shorts, stands with arms outstretched. In their left hand, they hold a tablet displaying a dashboard with charts and the number '27'. In their right hand, they hold a green chalkboard. The background is a dark, stylized landscape with a green mountain range and a blue sky. Three white speech bubbles with blue text are positioned around the person. White lines connect the person's arms to the speech bubbles.

Or are you still
wondering what they will
do when they run out of
iPads?

Are you
coming?

Stepping into
new frontiers