



NRC-CNRC

*Institute for
Information
Technology*

The Living Arts: The Future of Learning Online

Stephen Downes

National Research Council Canada

March 9, 2005



National Research
Council Canada

Conseil national
de recherches Canada

Canada

Traditional Online Learning



The concept of online learning usually revolves around a computer...

The Future of Online Learning



- **May be in Mississauga**
- **Probably does involve computers at all**



The School of The Future...



... is a living arts centre (or some such thing)

The Concept...

- Learning is centered around the interests of the learner (which may be arts, history, computing...)
- This learning is immersive – learning by doing – and takes place not in a school but in an appropriate environment (such as a living arts centre)
- The computer connects the student to the rest of the world, no matter where they are

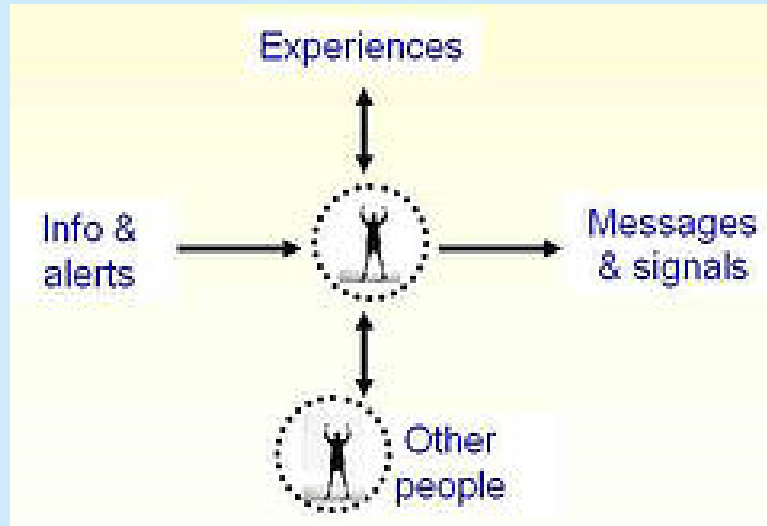
Game Based Learning



Types: Branching, Spreadsheet, Game, Lab...

<http://www.downes.ca/cgi-bin/website/view.cgi?dbs=Article&key=1116274375>

Workflow (Informal) Learning



**Types: Community of Practice, Environment,
Visualization...**

<http://metatime.blogspot.com/>

Online Learning at the Crossroads

- On the one hand – we have developed tools and systems intended to support traditional classroom based learning
- On the other hand – we *could* (should?) be developing tools and systems to support immersive learning
- My take: we should be developing for dynamic, immersive, *living* systems...

First Iteration: User-Produced Media

- **Blogs and Blogging**
- **Podcasting and Vodcasting**
- **Game mods and other multimedia**



Second Iteration: e-Portfolios

- **The e-Portfolio lives in the intersection between the worlds for education, work, and home**
- **A model for e-Portfolio as a learner-managed construct**
- **Key requirement is easy-to-use tools and hosting services***
- ***E.g. the “e-Portfolio-as-blog” approach**
Scott Wilson: <http://www.cetis.ac.uk/members/scott/entries/20050523083528>

Second Iteration: e-Portfolios

- **The e-Portfolio lives in the intersection between the worlds for education, work, and home**
- **A model for e-Portfolio as a learner-managed construct**
- **Key requirement is easy-to-use tools and hosting services***
- ***E.g. the “e-Portfolio-as-blog” approach**
Scott Wilson: <http://www.cetis.ac.uk/members/scott/entries/20050523083528>

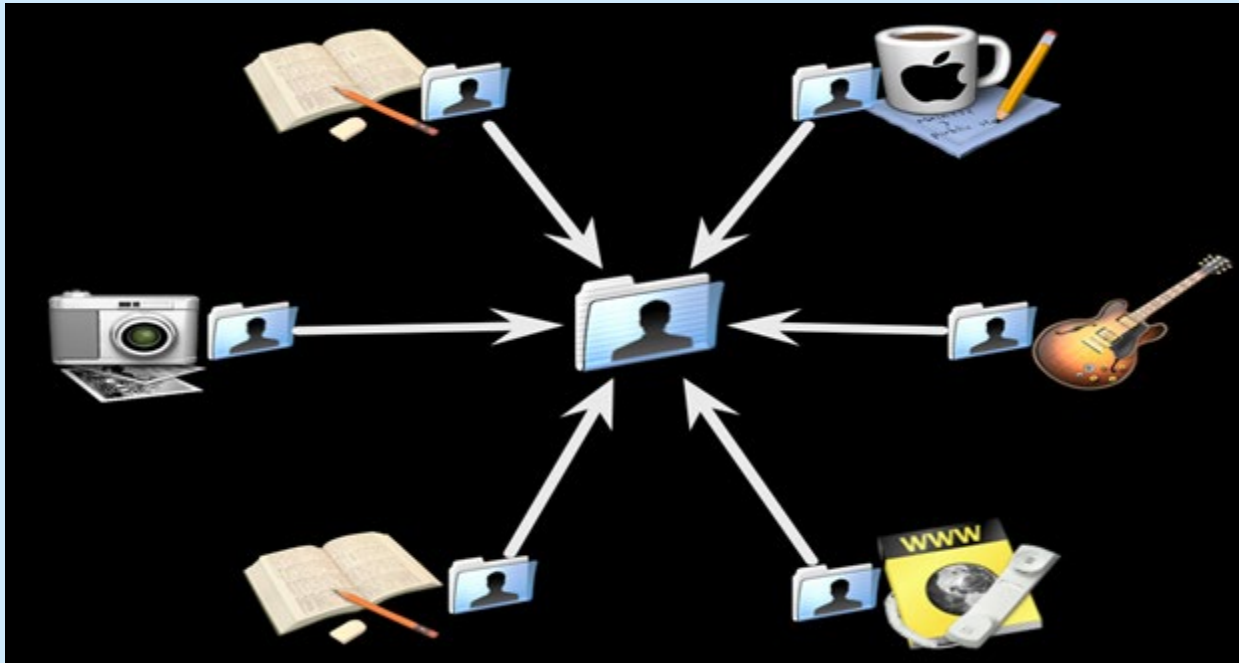
The Learning Network

- **The e-Portfolio lives in the intersection between the worlds for education, work, and home**
- **A model for e-Portfolio as a learner-managed construct**
- **Key requirement is easy-to-use tools and hosting services***
- ***E.g. the “e-Portfolio-as-blog” approach**
Scott Wilson: <http://www.cetis.ac.uk/members/scott/entries/20050523083528>

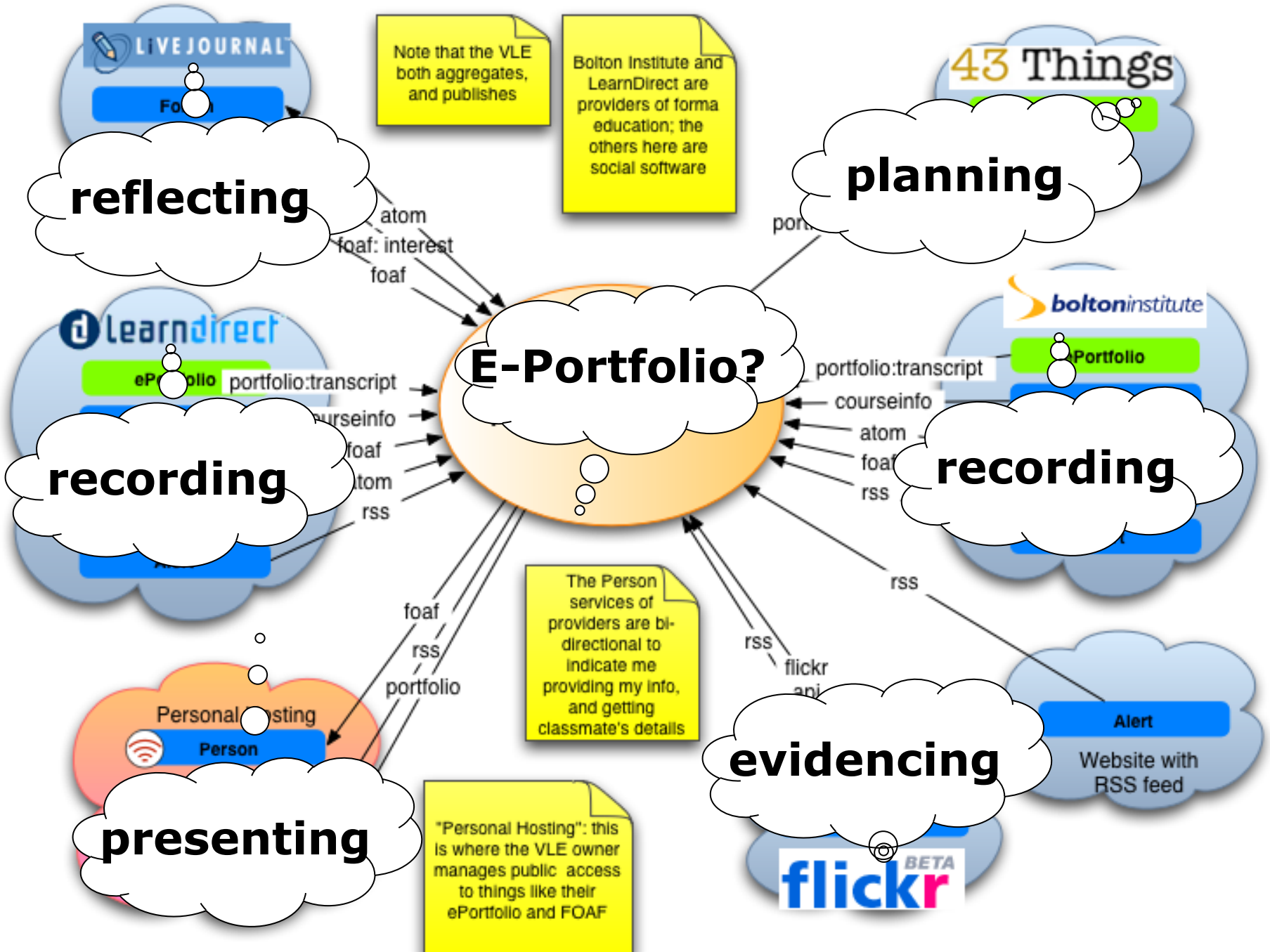
The Learning Network: Basic Concepts

- **Distribution – Learning Online**
- **Disaggregation – Learning Objects**
- **Decentralization – Web Services**
- **Disintermediation – Creating Conversations**

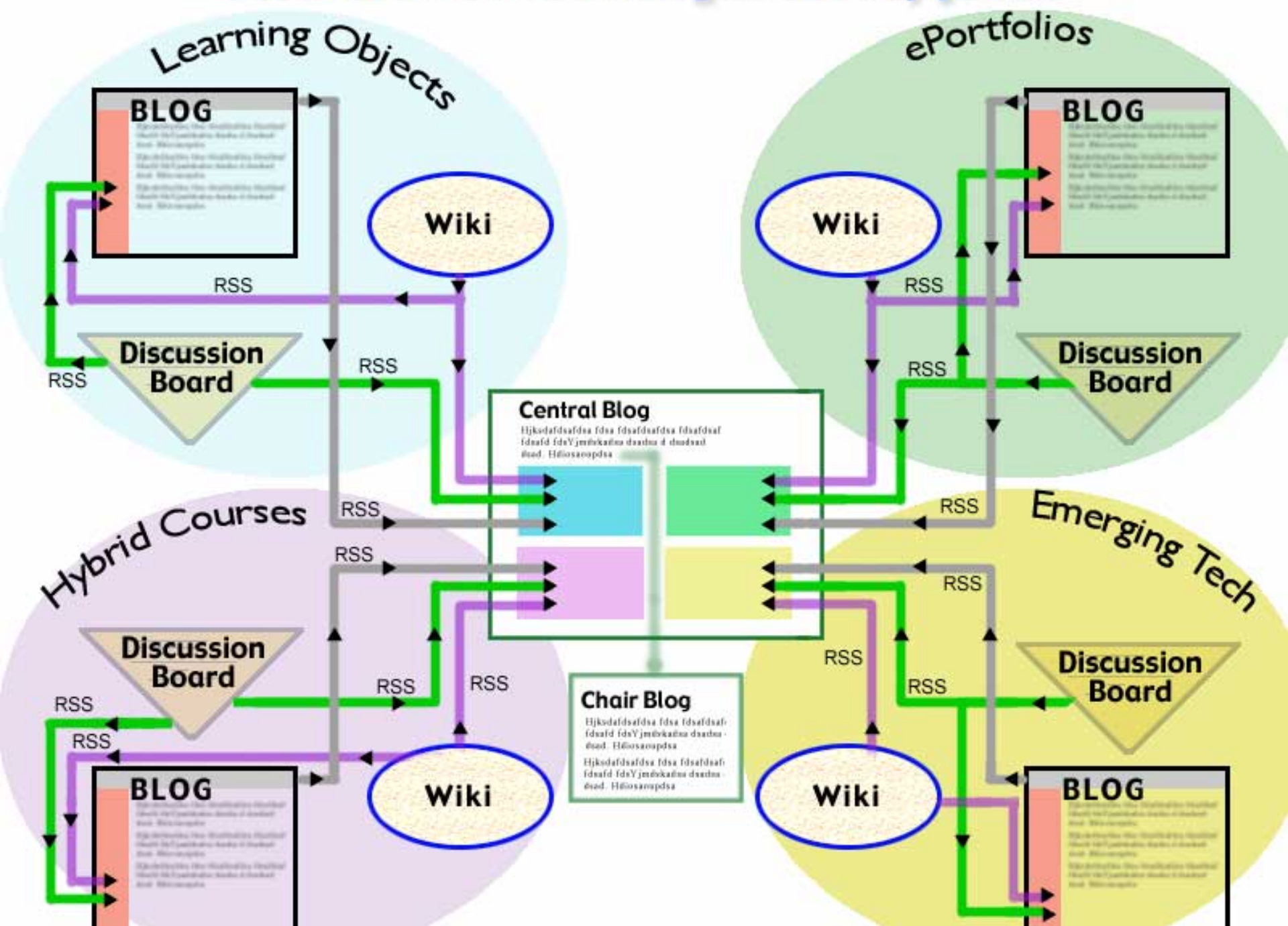
The *Living* Network - Aggregation



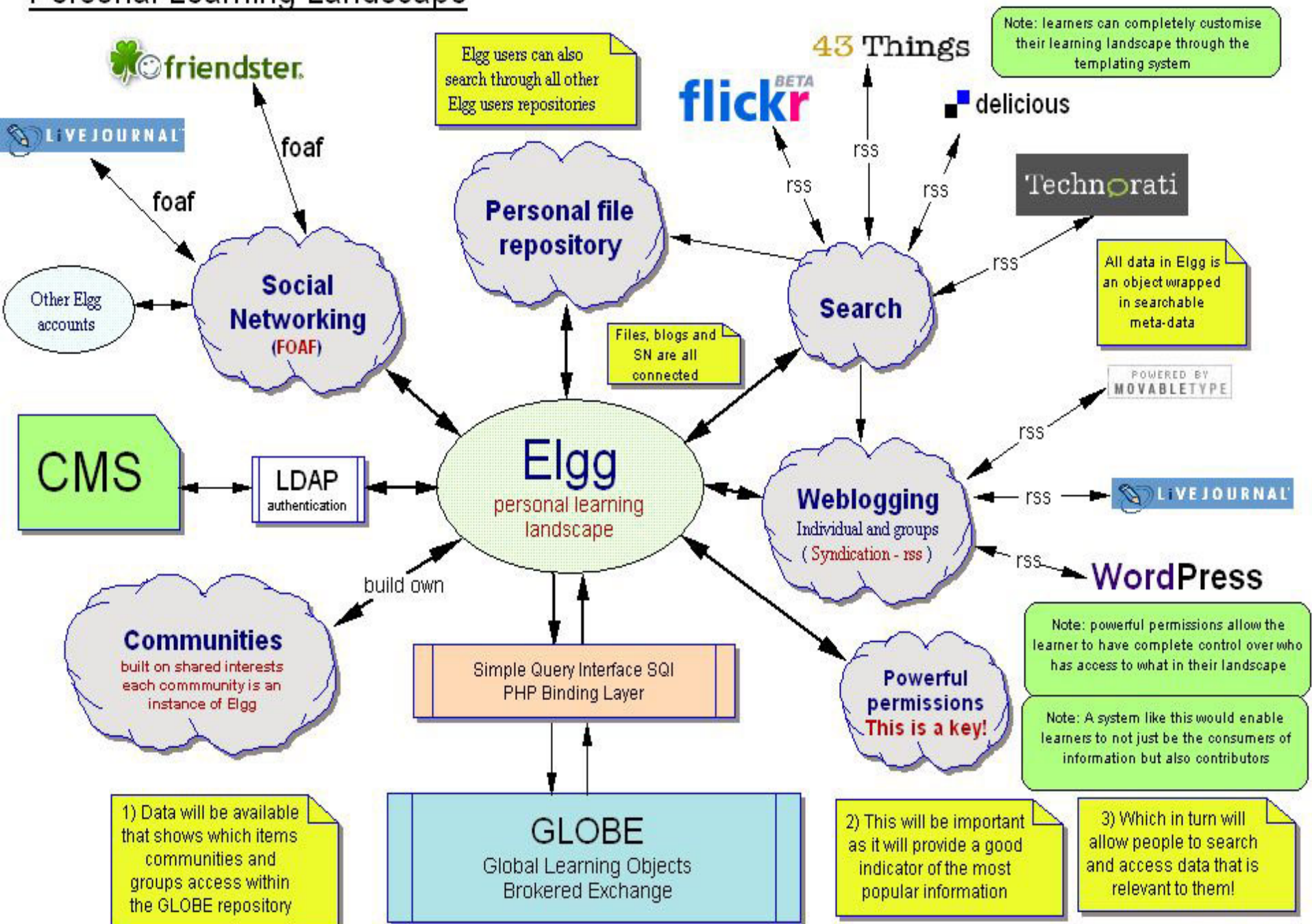
Scott Wilson



Ocotillo: Small Technologies Loosely Joined



Personal Learning Landscape



NRC CNRC

*Institute for
Information
Technology*

<http://www.downes.ca>

Science
— at work for —
Canada



National Research
Council Canada

Conseil national
de recherches Canada

Canada