The Future of Online Learning

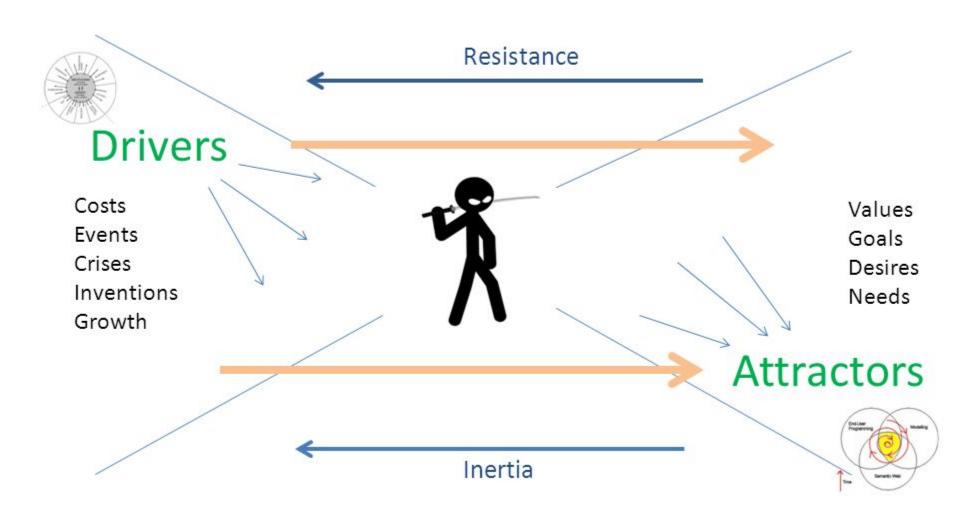
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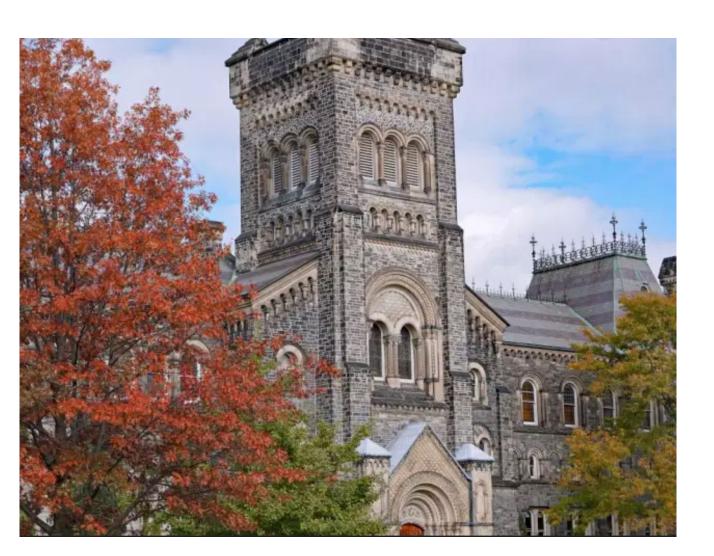
Stephen Downes April 27, 2020



Causes of Change



What is the Value Proposition?



"The proposition is an easy-tounderstand reason why a customer should buy a product or service from that particular business. A value proposition should clearly explain how a product fills a need, communicate the specifics of its added benefit, and state the reason why it's better than similar products on the market."

https://www.investopedia.com/terms/v/valueproposition.asp

Technology as Environment

While the capacity to provide cheap and high quality Internet to everyone in the world exists, the will to provide it does not.

Environment as Technology



We will need to negotiate a social contract between ourselves and our devices. The coming debate in the next decade will centre around the values and principles we want to based these on.

Affordances

Change is really about what we can do that we couldn't do before, and sometimes what we can't do that we used to be able to do.



We want students to see beyond what is possible in today's world, with today's technology, and acquire the ability to learn skills, conceptualize and design in future environments that do not exist today.

Normal Education



When we look at the core elements of 'normal' education - classrooms, cohorts, textbooks, and assessment - we see the beginnings of change pushing us gradually to that point where 'normal education' is no longer viable.

Toward Decentralization

On the one hand, it makes sense to migrate from an app-based model to a cloud-based model as soon as possible.

On the other hand, centralized resources and services will begin to disaggregate gradually from cloud provider to department or board to institution to individual.



Conferencing and Communication

Teachers need to talk about the online world as a place where we converse and collaborate, not as some other sort of news media or textbook publisher.



The locus of external control is no longer based on authority figures. It is increasingly driven by the student's self-perception, identity formation, and understanding of his or her place in society.

Patterns and Recognition



From the substrate, the patterns emerge out of more basic media, and from above, something needs to recognize the patterns as this or that — an archer, a bear or a fluffy bunny.

Learning resources aren't the patterns. They're the stars.

...a massive and complex ecosystem of people, devices, websites, resources, contents and services.

Who Speaks for Us?

How does a master plumber solve a problem, as compared to a novice? Experts don't just have more knowledge, they see things differently. How will this inform how we analyze and inform student learning? We don't know yet, nor will we know in five years, but the research is already underway.

Ethics, Analytics and the Duty of Care https://docs.google.com/document/d/11-9SUZbSTfZbOuYeGm5JIMV3ilw8vPIT1l67jtei
F8w/edit?usp=sharing



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