

E-learning in Estonia: challenges and problems

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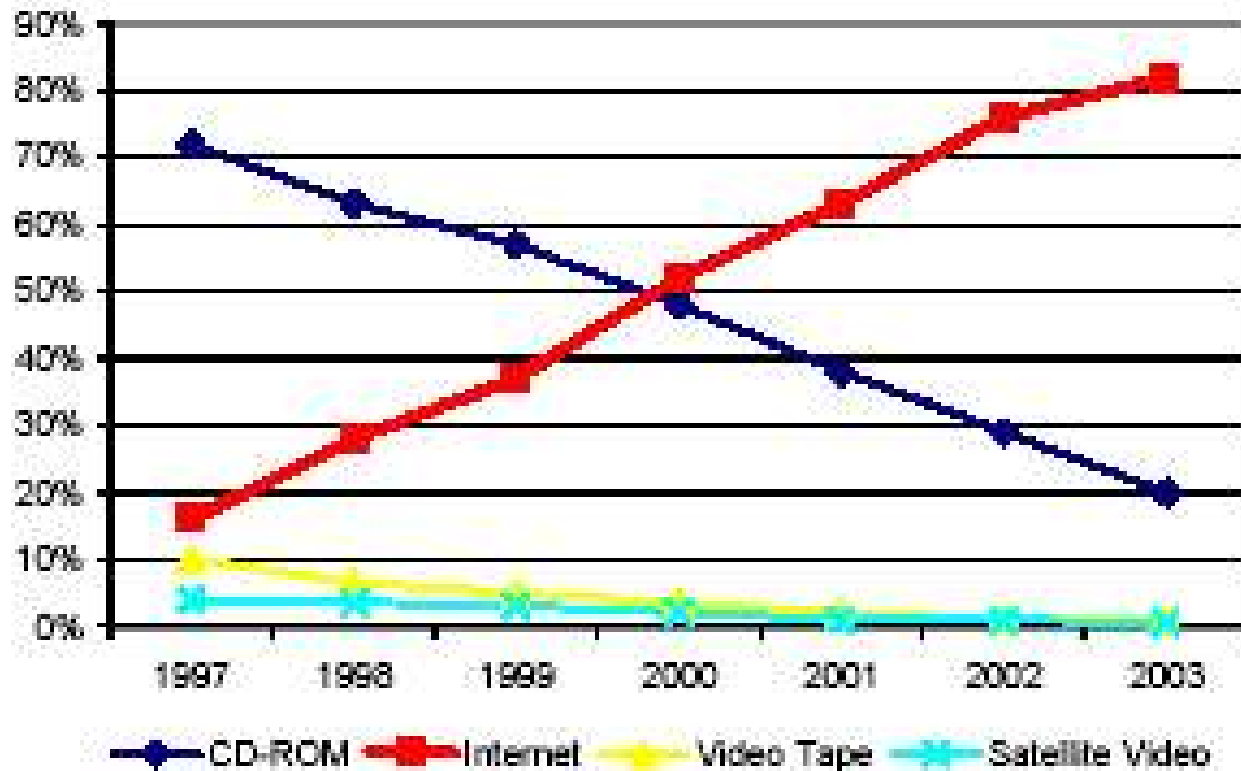
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Terms

- **E-learning** – usage of web etc ICT tools in higher and further learning community
= ICT-based learning, Web-based learning etc.
- **Blended learning** – version of e-learning, where face-to-face elements are combined with on-line elements; Blended learning is the most common version of e-learning

E-learning \approx Web Based Learning?

The "X" Factor: The Internet Will Dominate Technology-Based Training



Sources: IDC

E-learning axioms

- Technology *per se* does not improve the learning – it's usage gives the possibility for improvement
- Technology should only be used where it adds value
- The use of technology may look very different in different courses
- Technology can be used for: delivery, collaboration, management, assessment etc – for one element only **or** in combination **or** for all elements

Worldwide background I

- E-learners.com (USA) – learner-portal statistics:
 - 920 online degrees
 - 416 online programs
 - 8205 online courses
 - 113 online colleges
- e-learning is export article no three in Australia

Worldwide background II

- One third of all European work forth has used e-learning in 2002
- In US in 2003 more people used Web for e-learning than for buying music CD-s

Estonian e-University



- <http://www.e-uni.ee>
- created February 2003 by ME, EITS and 6 universities
- **Now roof for 8 universities**
 - University of Tartu
 - Tallinn Technical University
 - Tallinn Pedagogical University
 - IT College
 - Estonian Agricultural University
 - Estonian Business School
 - Academia Nord
 - Audentes

Estonian e-University



- Promotes e-learning in member-universities
- Supports collaboration between member-universities
- Manages collaborative EU and other projects
 - Minerva: UNIVE
 - ESF project, EITS projects
- Runs staff training courses (3 levels)
- Has two learning management systems:
WebCT and IVA (hosted by EENet)
- Is the member of EADTU

Number of students, who have WebCT ID

University	Total
University of Tartu	3078
Estonian Business School	78
Tallinn University of Technology	424
Estonian Agricultural University	252
IT College	215
Estonian e-University	178
Joint courses (TPU+TU)	38
Audentes	18
Tallinn Pedagogical University	9
University Nord	1
Grand Total	4691

Number of courses, WebCT



University	Total
University of Tartu	63
Tallinn University of Technology	60
Business School	36
Estonian Agricultural University	35
Audentes	23
IT College	16
Estonian e-University	8
Template	8
Tallinn Pedagogical University	5
Joint courses (TPU+TU)	4
University Nord	1
Grand Total	459

WebCT users %



University	Total	% usage WebCT
IT College	306	70%
Estonian Business School	1480	32%
University of Tartu	13486	23%
Estonian Agricultural University	3901	6%
Tallinn University of Technology	9481	4%
Audentes	2142	1%
Tallinn Pedagogical University	5481	0%
University Nord	700	0%

E-learning problems in Estonia

- Infrastructure:
 - No simple problems left
 - example with Narva
 - Staff training through multipoint videoconferencing
 - This year first time UT Narva college joined
 - Equipment used lowers bandwidth to the level of weakest participant
 - 128K bps to Narva – commercial lines only
 - No good solution exist

Estonian e-learning problems II

- Interoperability of Information systems
 - Who manages what?
 - Who develops what?
 - Who hosts what?

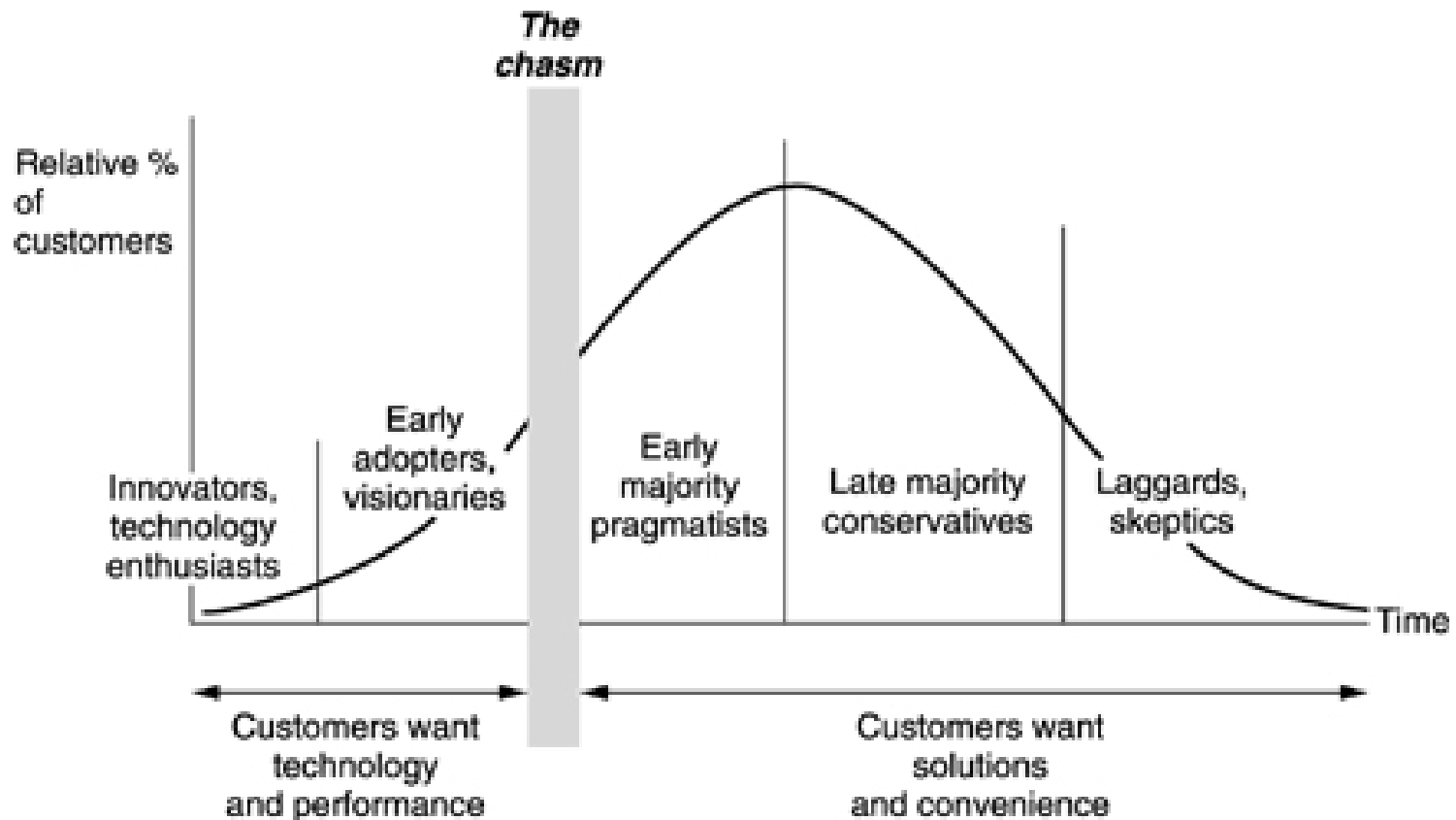
- Example:

WebCT – hosted by EENet,
managed by EITS

This solution solved many problems

...problems II continues

- Interoperability of Study IS and LMS
- SAIS Common admission system for Estonian universities
- E-university authentication
- Course exchange system
- WebCT new version runs on Oracle



E-learning community is just now crossing the Moor's innovation chasm and additional problems can push the process pack seriously

Thank you!