

Final Project EDCI 338 - Script

Introduction (S1) - Mikayla

As a group we decided that combining both, a written response and a visual zoom presentation, would greatly reflect the type of creative problem solving many have had to utilize in classrooms, companies and daily life rather than more traditional approach to final project formats.

Main Ideas (S2) - Mikayla

We have each taken responsibility for one of these overarching ideas that we have explored during the semester. Please feel free to listen along while you click through our presentation, read along with our notes or watch this zoom video! Without further adieu... Caitlin is going to kick things off by starting with the main focus of EDCI 338...PLN.

Key Characteristics of a PLN (S3) - Caitlin

What key characteristics make up a personal learning network?

The beneficial use of a public learning network (A PLN) lies within the communication between people.

Social media networks that a PLN may live off offers a unique, and diverse platform for sharing knowledge and information. We have a diverse set of individuals online; these individuals hold characteristics of their own that make our PLNs diverse. Some of the characteristics include cultural background, age, sexual orientation, location and lifestyle.

Connection between individuals is what creates a useful PLN.

In the article "View of Understanding personal learning networks: Their structure, content and the networking skills needed to optimally use them, by Rajagopal (Raja-go-pal) and colleagues, they introduce the notion that strong or weak connections allow for either collaboration or sources of new information.

Compare/Contrast Key Characteristics (S4) - Caitlin

Communication and social media both allow our PLNs to flourish.

Social media offers a space for communication to exist online and allowing the spread of knowledge and information on any topic of interest. We interact with our PLN online and off, allowing ourselves a PLN that consists of those who are like us geographically and those who are not, which provides us with an opportunity for a diverse and unique PLN.

Contrasting the two, we seek specific information from individuals within our public networks when we do it face-to-face, including a co-worker, a family member, a friend, or an employer. The opportunity for an “outside the box” opinion is limited. However, on social media platforms we are provided with a wide range of individuals who expand far beyond the limitations of location. When we seek information for a specific context (including work, school or for personal reasons) we communicate with our PLN in a different matter. Social media allows for connection between seemingly strangers, while communication in person is limited to location and experience.

Media Technologies (S5) - Caitlin

What features and characteristics of existing media technologies make them effective for personal learning?

One of the great aspects to some of these existing media technologies is that they are accessible via your computer, tablet or phone, making them attainable across multiple avenues of devices, which in turn may reach more people.

Another characteristic that makes these media technologies beneficial for personal learning is that they are popular. Across the globe you will find accounts from various countries, which leads to a diverse PLN, and offers the opportunity for a PLN expansion.

Using media technologies, allows for a digital identity, and Eric Stroller really encompasses the importance of a digital identity in his YouTube video “What is Digital Identity?”. In his words – Having a digital footprint allows for greater opportunities one of which being a future employer, who may use your digital identity as a reason to work with you.

Because these media technologies allow for users all over the world to interact on shared interests, it can create a sense of community and belonging for individuals. Social media allows you to collaborate with individuals who you may not have gotten the chance to, had these media technologies not existed. Karl Spracklen, in the chapter Identity-making and social media from the book Digital leisure, the internet and popular culture, truly highlights the community and belonging one may feel through the connection that social media allows.

What are Social Media Platforms? (S6) - Mikayla hi

Networking is defined by the Oxford Dictionary as “the action or process of interacting with others to exchange information and develop professional or social contacts.” Networking using social media can be done with a variety of apps such as Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, TikTok and Pinterest. LinkedIn, Instagram and Tiktok have been identities as the most used platforms as well as the most potentials. While all have uses for both personal and professional purposes, some platforms are more focused on one or the other. Following educators, influencers, and potential employers' social media platforms is a form of networking new connections that wouldn't have been possible offline and greatly develops your PLN.

Compare/Contrast (S8) - Mikayla

I've highlighted three of the most popular social media platforms of 2022 for developing a PLN... Instagram, LinkedIn and Tik-Tok. The following social media platforms all have both positives and negatives that can be used in different ways to enhance your network.

Personal Experience (S9) - Mikayla

I wanted to show case how I use social media to enhance my Personal Learning Network. I began following educators and creators to teach myself hard skills such as copywriting, video editing, social media managing and marketing. From there, I began to create my own content and showcased my digital portfolio on various platforms such as Instagram and Tiktok. This led to opportunities of future employers to see my work. I reached out to joni's ceo, a company I have been following on LinkedIn to pursue job opportunities. Baed on my digital portfolio, I was

able to secure a position with them. This is all possible because I utilized social media and developed a personal learning network.

How Technology Tracks and the Use of Data benefits a PLN (S10) - Pen

When people use various social media, there will be targeted advertisements, videos and book recommendations, which are the results of technology screening(Regan, P., & Jesse, J., 2019). With the gradual enrichment of users' usage data, these recommendations will be more in line with users' needs, which means users can acquire knowledge more efficiently and expand potential PLN.

The modern mobile phone photos have geotagging function. Geotagging function on photos can help people classify photos and use them more efficiently

Weaknesses of the Privacy, Security and Acceptable Use Policies for Social Media Platforms (S11) - Pen

On public WIFI networks, hackers can steal users' personal information, browsing history, passwords and more, which can even threaten the security of personal property. Stolen identity, some hackers will use these identities to do some illegal and criminal things, such as using the identity account to borrow money from the account owner's friends, causing property losses, which will have a serious impact on the life of the account owner.

Careless Posting on social media platforms can hurt your chances of getting a job (Osborne, 2022). In recent years, many job seekers have failed multiple times and even lost their jobs due to inappropriate comments and videos posted on Twitter and Facebook. When you put information on the Internet, it can be difficult to remove it completely, especially if it is widely distributed.

Strengths (S12) - Pen

When people share their preferences and concerns on media platforms, it is easier to find friends with the same goals and interests in the learning community and share knowledge and ideas with each other, which reflects the expansion of the social circle.

Some data and information have access rights, and only the permitted personnel can access

and use the data, which can ensure that certain topics, research data and discussion will not be disturbed by irrelevant people, and also protect the patent of research results, which can encourage and promote the original content (PQY54485699, 2022).

How Technology Allows you to Enhance your Digital Identity (S13) - Kevin

Thank you pen for explaining the key characteristics of a personal learning network. Next, I will be discussing the connections between digital identity and one's reputation. To start us off I will discuss how technology allows us to enhance our digital identity or reputation. Social media is a great tool nowadays for us to grow our social network and share our ideas. With all these different apps tailored for our needs, we can use social media and technology to effectively develop a following. I'd like to note that we are not only limited to a following and instead we can also participate in groups, post our own resources, comment on others posts and just generally share ideas to create a community where we can be recognized and grow our digital identity.

Leaders and their PLN (S14) - Kevin

Next, we will look at some successful individuals who have already used a personal learning network to create an impact in the field they are in. Two great examples that we have looked at in class are Brad Baker and Sophie Lui. Dr. Brad Baker is the associate superintendent of indigenous education for the BC ministry of education. He is also a district principal in North Vancouver and is the first educator of indigenous background in his district. He helps lead indigenous education programs and advocates for anti-racism in the school programs. His personal learning networks have led him to become a leader in indigenous awareness. Sophie on the other hand uses her personal learning networks a little bit differently. Sophie got to watch social media grow and she was able to capitalize by growing her own social media platforms. She is seen using twitter for professional topics and instagram to share her day to day life. Sophie also thinks that social media is a great way to represent yourself and for pursuing continuous learning.

Social Considerations (S15) - Kevin

Lastly we will discuss the dangers of social media. Although social media is a positive platform overall, there can still be a lot of backlash in terms of negative response, impersonation, security and harassment. Although some of these can be avoided such as being aware of your digital footprint, sometimes other people's actions cannot be stopped. Sophie tells us that the best way

to deal with backlash from the community is to simply ignore the message so that the person spreading the hate won't feel rewarded.

Personal Experience (S16) - Sadhik

I started creating a Personal Learning Network not for a specific course that I am taking but for the discipline that I am in. I think the greatest advantage of creating your PLN is that it can allow you to go beyond the class materials and see the connections between theories that you learn in the classroom, explore how these theories evolved and whether they can or cannot provide solutions to our current financial and monetary problems. Your ability to talk about and evaluate the current agenda is now as important as, sometimes even more than, your GPA. As an Economics student, following both national and global trends as well as recent publications is crucial for me. So when I take a class in my area, one thing that I like to do is to go through the syllabus and find out the topics that will be covered during a particular course. Then the thing I do is look up the topic title in Google to have an idea of what the topic is about. When I google the topics, I can also find news and specific forums where I can find people's comments on a particular issue or the topic overall.

Conclusion (S17) - Sadhik

The success of a PLN setup depends on its diversity. Participating in many communities with various foci will create a rich learning environment. In a digital setting, where one may actually draw inspiration from the entire world, this is very simple to accomplish. There is no reason to accept sources that fall short of your requirements. The fact that each person can choose the tools and websites that best suit their learning needs is ultimately what matters. These will vary depending on the individual, and they might also alter over time.

