

The LON-CAPA Resource Sharing Network



Gerd Kortemeyer
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Experiences

- The whole conference is about sharing content
- No sense preaching to the choir
- Thus:

- **LON-CAPA**

The Free Open-Source Distributed Learning Content Management and Assessment System

Sharing and using online learning and assessment materials across institutions and disciplines. Since 1992.

- What have we learned in 20 years?

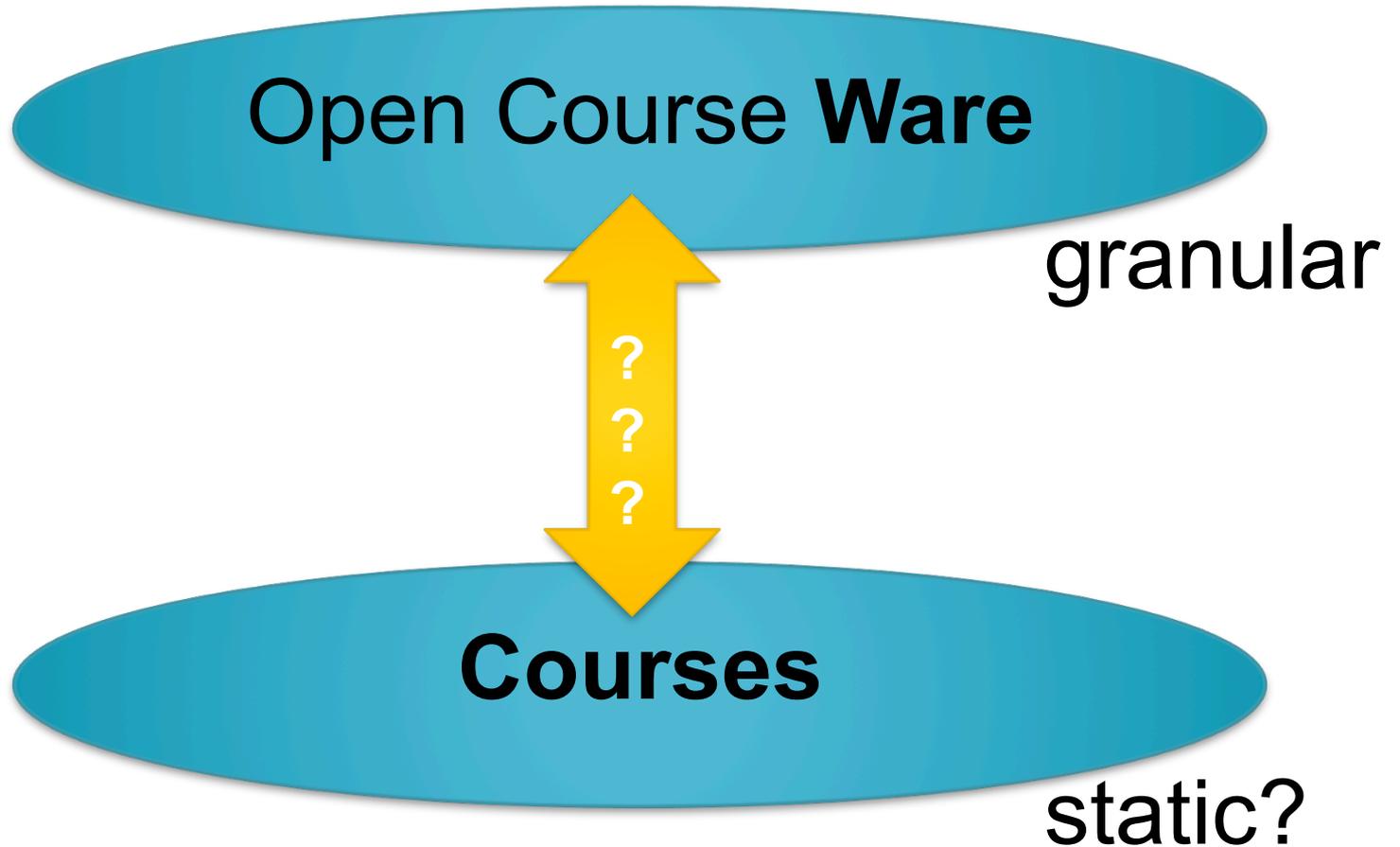
Experiences

- Focus on online educational resources for learners
 - Not on research publications
 - Not on guides on how to teach better
 - Not digital versions of books
 - Not collections of materials for lecture preparation
 - Not data collections (except for learners to evaluate as part of their learning)
- Compatible with OER idea
- LON-CAPA: usually in course-context

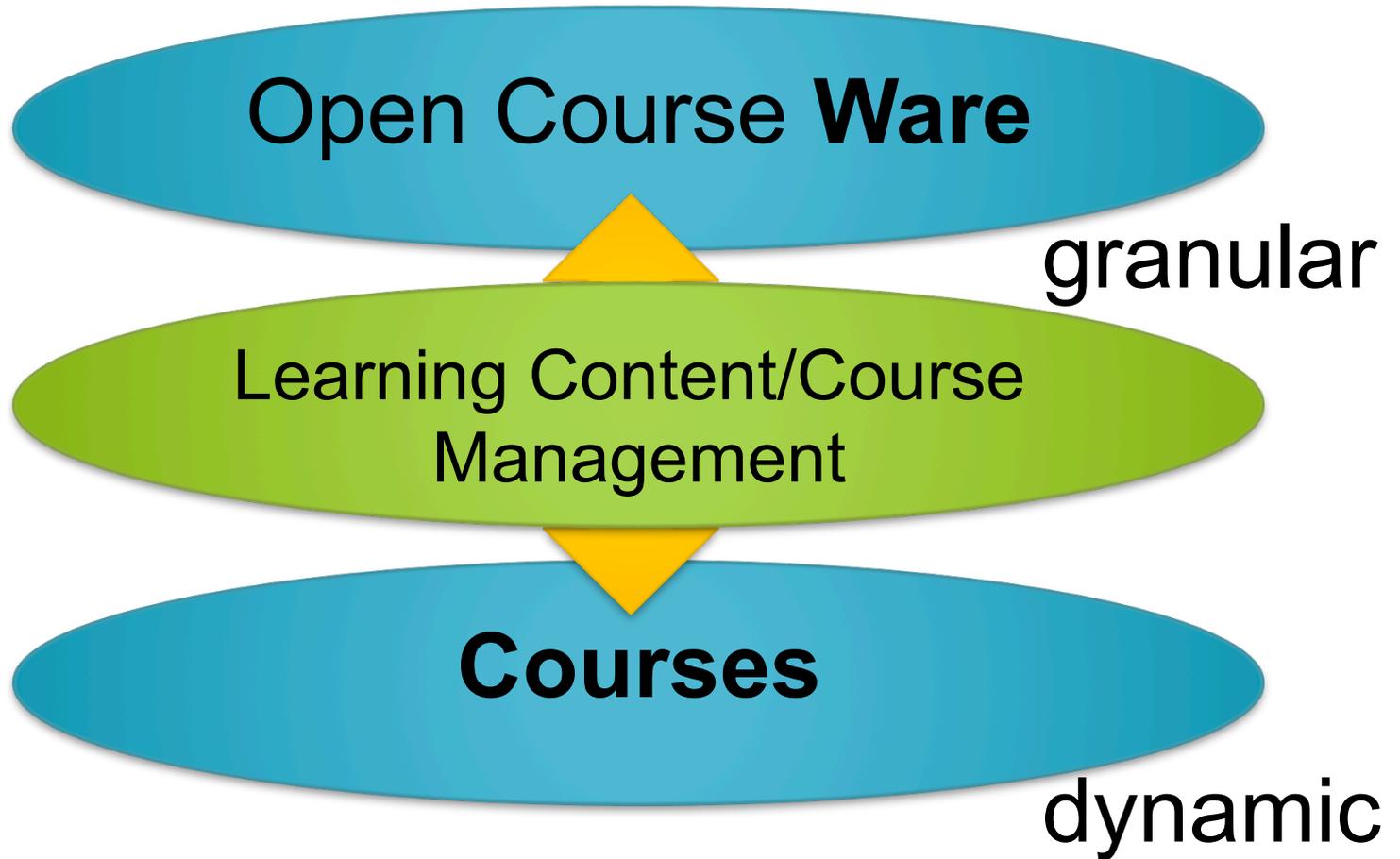
Experiences

- Focus on large enrollment introductory undergraduate courses and AP courses at schools
 - online
 - hybrid
 - online supplement or textbook replacement for traditional lectures
- New in 2012: free open course
 - 2000 students in free online physics course <http://relate.mit.edu/physicscourse>
- Faculty compiles content for students into courses

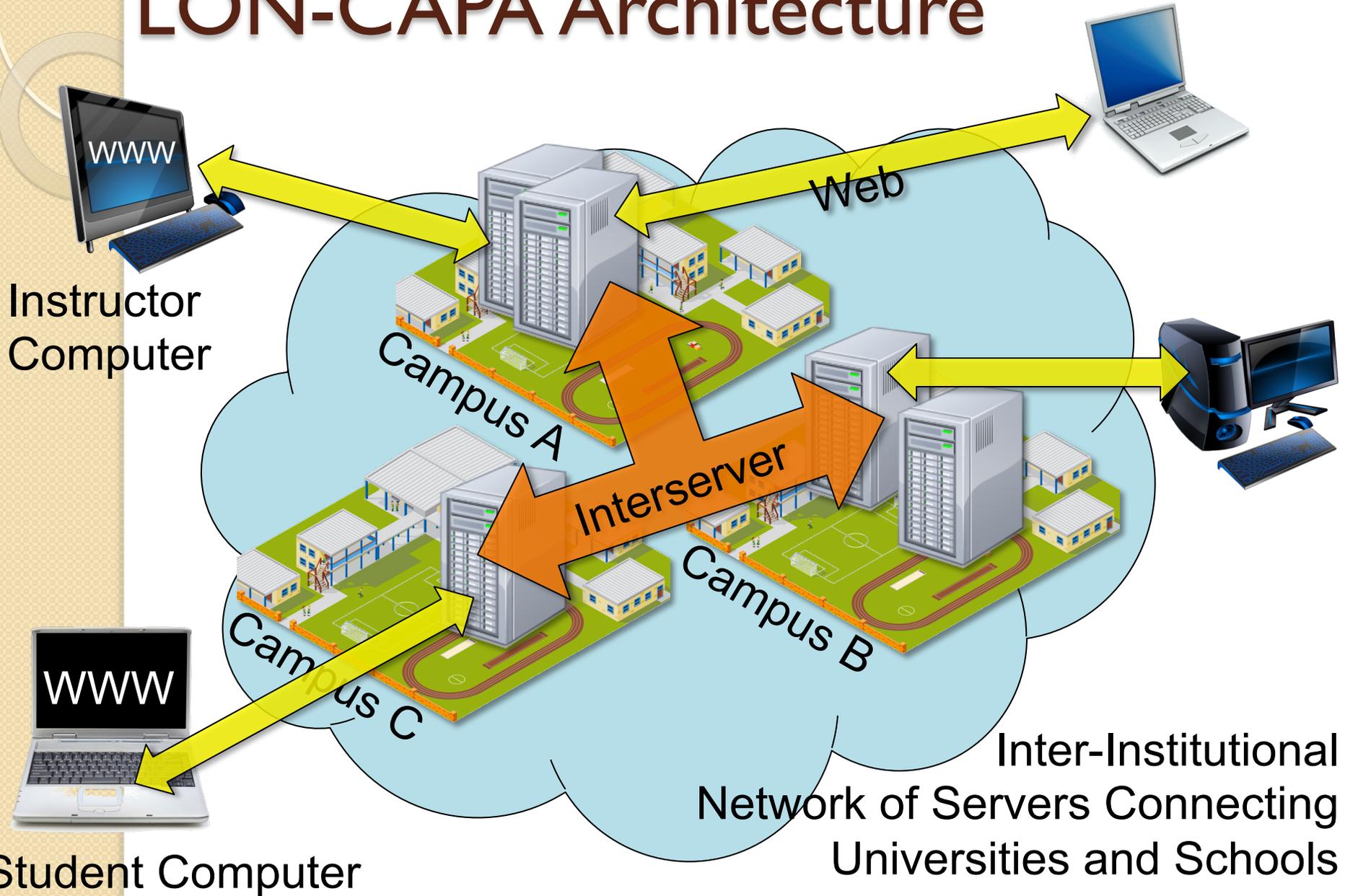
Conflict or Synergy?



Conflict or Synergy?



LON-CAPA Architecture



LON-CAPA Architecture



Course Management

Campus A

Resource Assembly



Course Management

Campus B

Resource Assembly

Shared Cross-Institutional
Digital Resource Library

LON-CAPA Architecture



Course Management

Campus A

Resource Assembly



Course Management

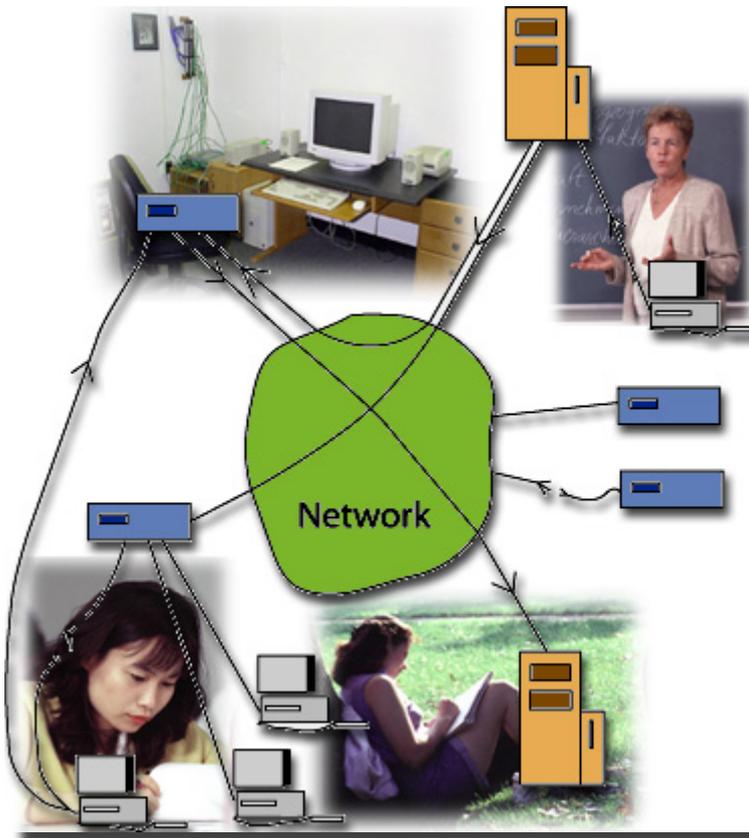
Campus B

Resource Assembly

Shared Cross-Institutional
Digital Resource Library

Shared Resource Library

- The distributed network looks like one big file system



▶	Domain - sc (University of South Carolina)
▶	Domain - sfu (Simon Fraser University)
▶	batchelo
▶	chem281
▶	exafs
▶	hanlan
▶	mxchen
▶	slavieri
▶	vjungic
▶	Domain - sunysb (SUNY Stony Brook)
▶	Domain - tmcc (Truckee Meadows Community College)
▶	jensen
▶	mbauer
▶	souza
▶	Greenberg
	default.sequence (metadata)
▶	samples
▶	testuser1
▶	Domain - ucf (University of Central Florida)
▶	

Shared Resource Library

- Resources may be web pages ...

Example: Looping

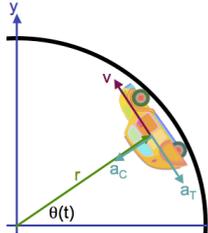
A toy car can go through a looping if it is fast enough. What are the forces that act on it? How fast does it have to be?

The motion is obviously circular, but non-uniform: the car will slow down on the way up, and speed up on the way down. With r being the radius of the looping, the x -axis horizontal, the y -axis pointing up, the origin being in the center of the looping, and $\theta(t)$ being the angle, the position of the car is given by

$$\vec{r}(\theta) = \begin{pmatrix} r \cos(\theta(t)) \\ r \sin(\theta(t)) \end{pmatrix}$$

as long as it does not fall off the track.

The figure below illustrates the setup:

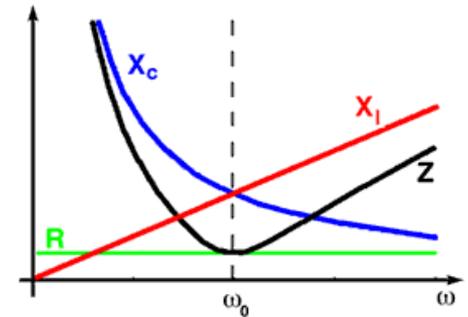


The addition of the three currents (through the resistor, the inductance, and the capacitance), each of which is 90° out of phase with each other, in quadrature yields:

$$\begin{aligned} V &= \sqrt{V_R^2 + (V_C - V_L)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{(IR)^2 + (IX_C - IX_L)^2} \\ &= I \sqrt{R^2 + (X_C - X_L)^2} \\ &= IZ \end{aligned}$$

where I is the current, X_C and X_L are the [capacitive](#) and [inductive](#) reactances, respectively, and Z is the [impedance](#). Putting in the values of the reactances, we obtain for Z :

Impedance



$$\begin{aligned} Z &= \frac{V}{I} = \sqrt{R^2 + (X_C - X_L)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{R^2 + \left(\frac{1}{\omega C} - \omega L \right)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{R^2 + \left(\frac{1}{2\pi f C} - 2\pi f L \right)^2} \end{aligned}$$

and has its minimum of $Z = R$ when

$$\omega_0 = (LC)^{-1/2},$$

pure LC circuit. This is the [resonance frequency](#) of the RLC circuit. The reactance and of the reactances is shown in the figure.

have to be added in a special way. They end up as a single quantity Z , the [impedance](#) of the [resistance](#).

Example

Focal Length

The following pictures are taken from the same vantage point with three different zoom lenses:

- 17mm-35mm wideangle zoom
- 24mm-70mm normal zoom
- 70mm-300mm tele zoom

using a digital camera with an image sensor of 24mm x 36mm (standard so-called 35mm image format).



17mm extreme wide angle

24mm wide angle



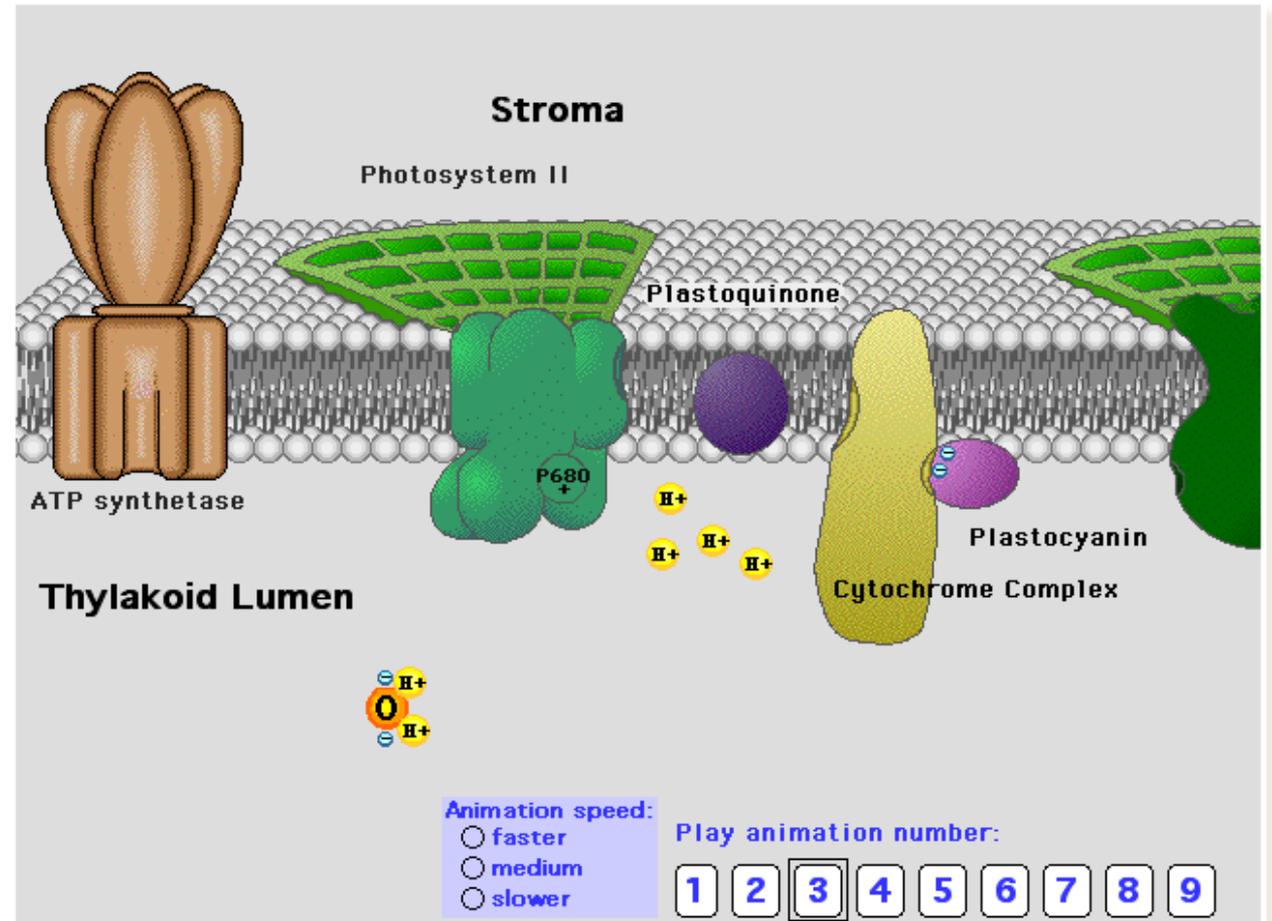
35mm mild wide angle

48mm normal



Shared Resource Library

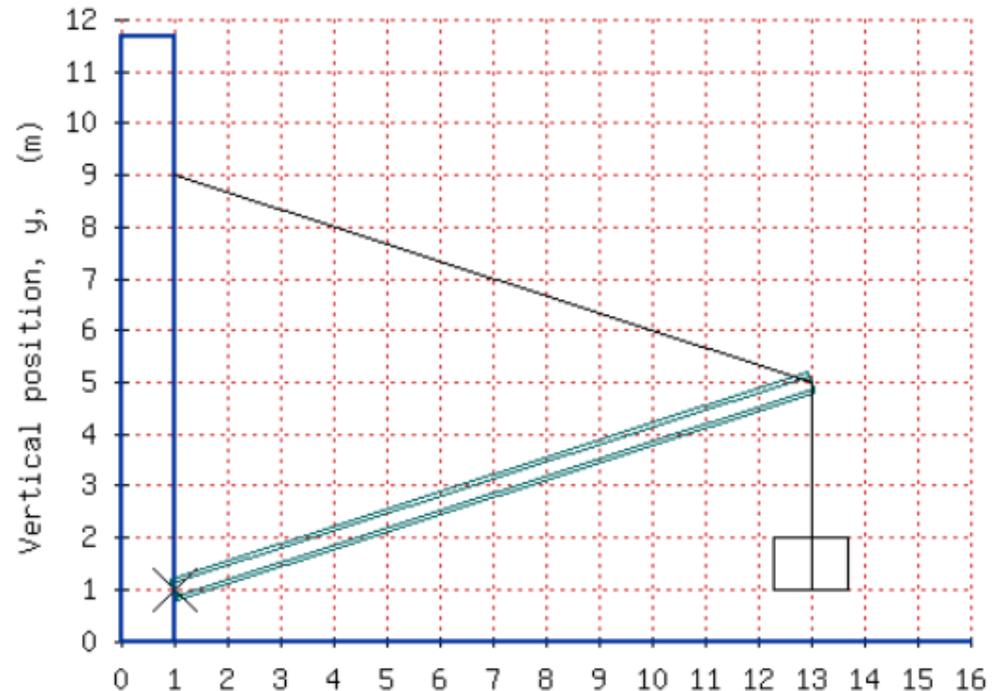
- ... or simulations and animations ...



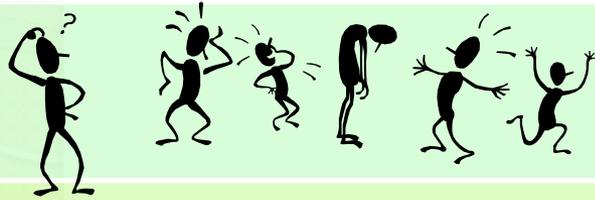
Shared Resource Library

- ... or this kind of randomizing online problems

A crate with a mass of 155.5 kg is suspended from the end of a uniform boom with mass of 89.5 kg. The upper end of the boom is supported by a cable attached to the wall and the lower end by a pivot (marked X) on the same wall. Calculate the tension in the cable.



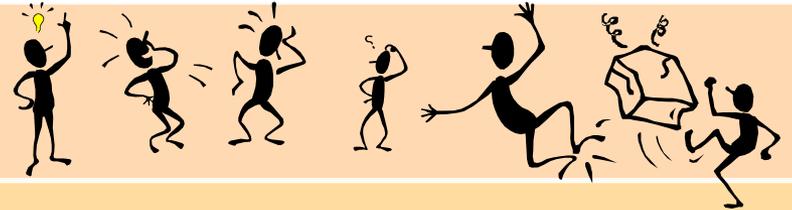
LON-CAPA Architecture



Course Management

Campus A

Resource Assembly



Course Management

Campus B

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Shared Cross-Institutional
Digital Resource Library

Resource Assembly

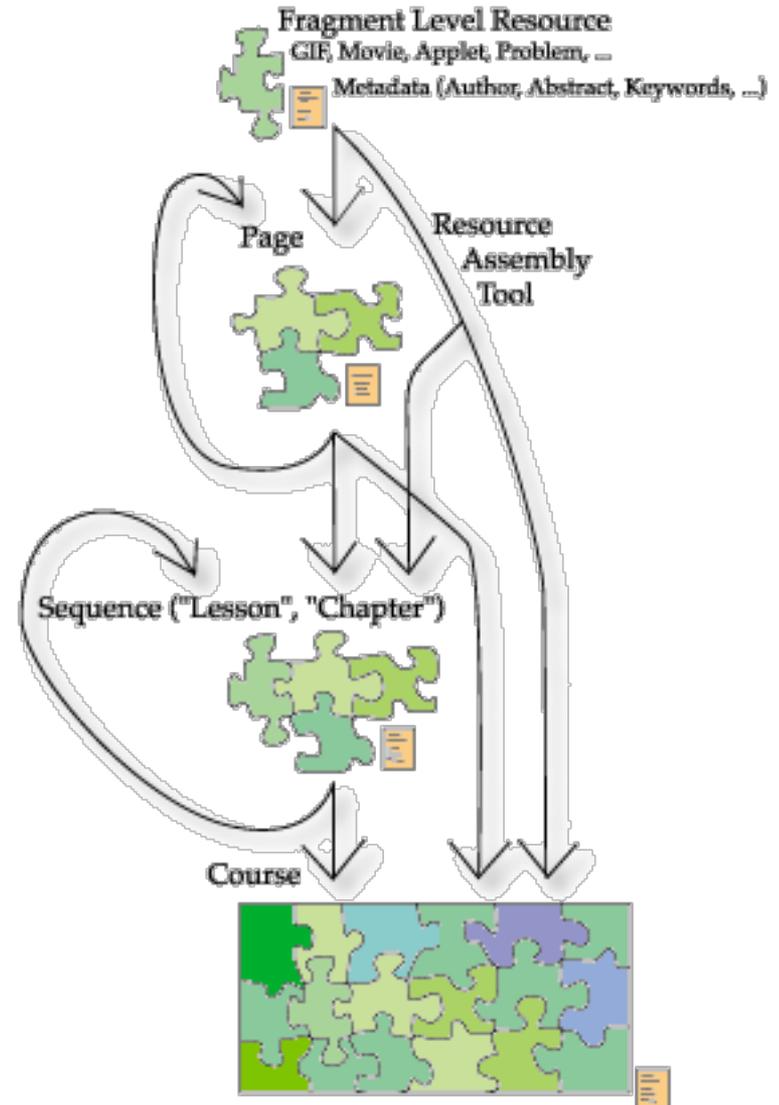
- Take shopping cart to the supermarket



▶	Domain - sc (University of South Carolina)
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▶	chem281
▶	exafs
▶	hanlan
▶	mxchen
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▶	Greenberg
	default.sequence (metadata)
▶	samples
▶	testuser1
▶	Domain - ucf (University of Central Florida)
▶	

Resource Assembly

- Nested Assemblies
- No pre-defined levels of granularity („module“, „chapter“, etc)
 - People can never agree what those terms mean
- Re-use possible on any level
 - Customize your table of contents



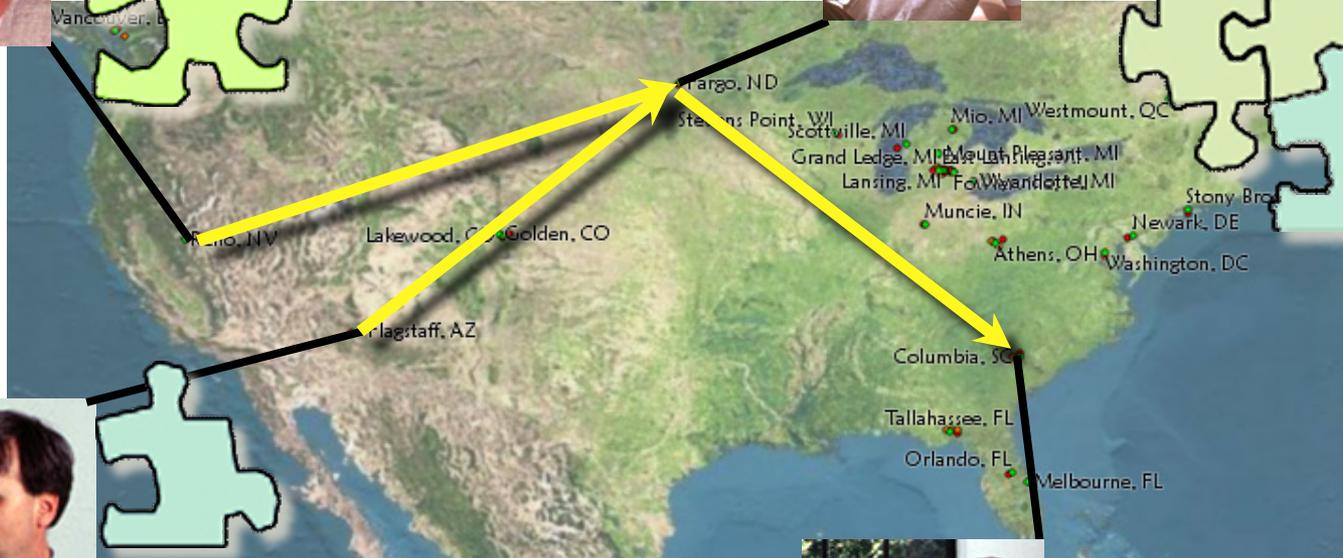
Resource Assembly



Writes module about energy conservation



Compiles module about conservation laws



Writes module about momentum conservation



Uses whole assembly in his course

LON-CAPA Architecture



Course Management

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Resource Assembly



Course Management

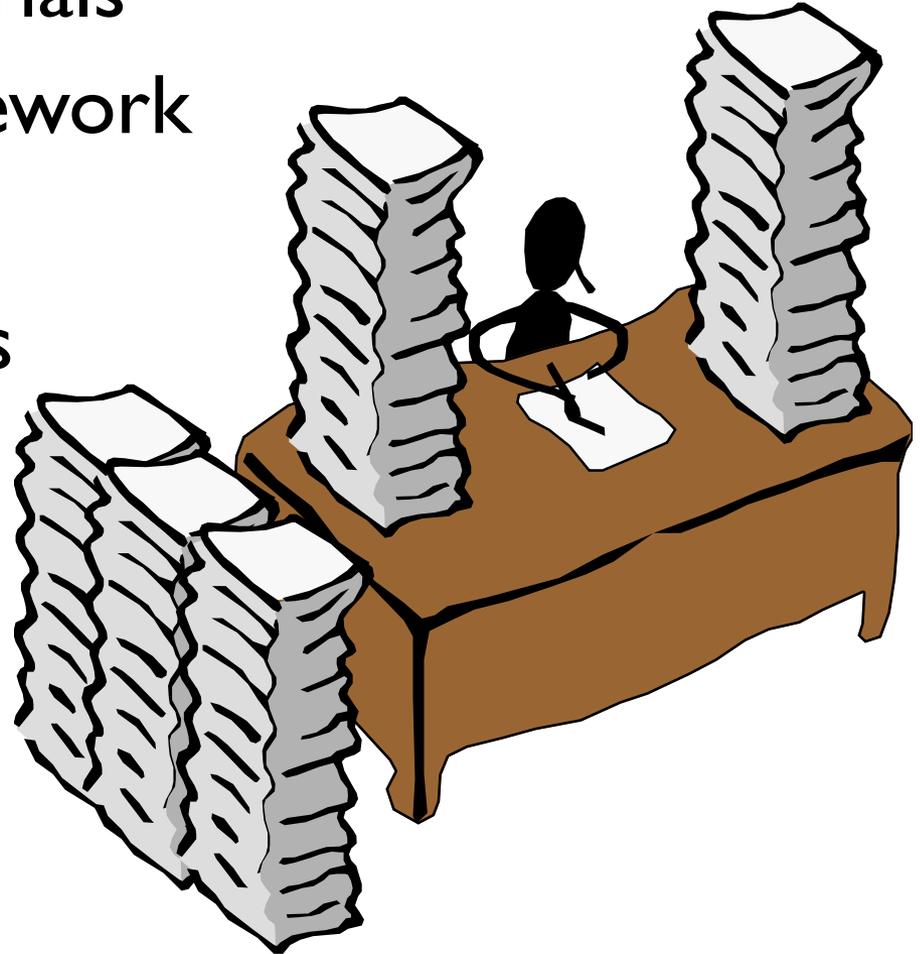
Campus B

Resource Assembly

Shared Cross-Institutional
Digital Resource Library

Course Management

- Posting of materials
- Posting of homework
- Discussions
- Announcements
- Portfolios
- Scheduling
- Gradebook
- ...



Course Management

- Instructors can directly use the assembled material in their courses
 - navigational tools for students to access the material
 - access rights management
 - timing
 - contextual discussions and messaging

The screenshot displays a course management interface with the following elements:

- Navigation links: [Main Menu](#), [Return to Last Location](#), [Navigate Contents](#), [Course Documents](#)
- Section Header: **Navigate Course Contents**
- Controls: A dropdown menu for "Select Action" and a "Go" button, along with a "Sort by: Default" dropdown.
- Content List:
 - Syllabus
 - Calendar Overview
 - Electrostatics
 - Electric Field
 - Capacitors
 - Capacitors
 - Capacitors Materials
 - Capacitors Homework
- Item List (under Capacitors Homework):

Item Name	Discussion Icon	Answer Status
Force	Yes	Answer available
Spherical Capacitor	Yes	Answer available
Separation	Yes	Answer available
Dielectric Constant	Yes	Answer available
Energy Stored	Yes	Answer available
Dielectric constant 2	Yes	Answer available
Energy Density	No	Answer available
Capacitance	No	Answer available
Capacitance 2	No	Answer available

A blue arrow points to the "Capacitance" item in the list.

Course Management

Gerd Kortemeyer (Course Coordinator) **LB274, Spring 2011 - Intro Calc-Based Physics II** (More ...)

Messages Roles Help Logout

[Main Menu](#) | [Return to Last Location](#) | [Course Contents](#) | [Course Editor](#) | [Groups](#) | Switch course role to...

LB274, Spring 2011 - Intro Calc-Based Physics II » **Course Contents**

Tools:  Sort by: Default

- Syllabus
- Calendar Overview
- ▶  Electrostatics
- ▼  Electric Field
 - Electric Field
 - ▶  Electric Field Materials
 - ▶  Electric Field Homework
- ▼  Capacitors
 - Capacitors
 - ▼  Capacitors Materials
 - Circuits
 - Capacitance
 - Example: Capacitance
 - Factors Affecting Capacitance
 - Parallel Plate Capacitor
 - ? Plate Capacitor ✗ Answer available
 - Example: Farad
 - Example: Cloud
 - Capacitance of a Sphere
 - Example: Sphere
 - Two Spheres
 - Combination of Capacitors

Assembled structure turns into the course navigation

Organized around the content, not the resource type, e.g. embedded online assessment

Course Management

- Course overview/dashboard

Course Action Items

Gerd Kortemeyer
Course Coordinator
LBS 272 - Spring 2006

LBS 272 - Spring 2006 -> Display Action Items

What's New?

[Go to first resource](#)

Page set to be displayed after you have selected a role in this course? Currently: *What's New? page (user preference)* **Change** for just [this course](#) or for all [your courses](#).

[Hide all](#) [Show all](#)

Problems requiring handgrading [Hide](#)

Problem Name	Number ungraded
Electric Field	4

Problems with errors [Hide](#)

No problems with errors

Problems with av. attempts ≥ 3 or deg. difficulty ≥ 0.8 and total number of students with submissions ≥ 4 [Hide](#)

[Change thresholds?](#)

Resource	Part	Num. students	Av. Attempts	Deg. Diff	Last Reset	Reset Count?
Field Lines	single part	24	2.12	0.84		<input type="checkbox"/>
Net Force	single part	53	2.49	0.80		<input type="checkbox"/>
Pith Balls	single part	52	4.12	0.90		<input type="checkbox"/>

Reset counters to 0

Resources in course with version changes since last week [Hide](#)

[Change interval?](#)

Resource	Last revised	New version	Version used
Applet: Electron Orbit	Fri Jan 13 10:18:52 2006 (EST)	10	10
Capacitance of a Sphere	Mon Jan 16 12:03:13 2006	8	8

Unread course discussion posts [Hide](#)

[Change options?](#)

Location	Type	Time of last post	Number of new posts
Coulomb	Resource	last Monday, Jan 16 at 04:55 pm (EST)	1
Distance Change	Resource	last Monday, Jan 16 at 07:00 pm (EST)	1
Field Lines	Resource	last Monday, Jan 16 at 07:49 pm (EST)	1
Force	Resource	on Wednesday, Jan 11 at 07:01 pm (EST)	3
Net Force	Resource	23 hours, 19 minutes ago	5
Pith Balls	Resource	last Monday, Jan 16 at 09:21 pm (EST)	6
Point P	Resource	last Friday, Jan 13 at 02:34 pm (EST)	5
Potential	Resource	last Sunday, Jan 15 at 03:15 pm (EST)	1
Two Charges	Resource	last Sunday, Jan 15 at 03:26 pm (EST)	1
Vector	Resource	last Saturday, Jan 14 at 01:32 am (EST)	1
Vectors	Resource	last Saturday, Jan 14 at 12:09 pm (EST)	2

New course messages [Hide](#)

Number	Subject	Sender	Date/Time
1.	Feedback [msu/mmp/kap18/problems/cd460_problem]	@msu	Sat Jan 14 10:45:02 2006 (EST)

New critical messages in course [Hide](#)

No unread critical messages in course

LON-CAPA Architecture



Course Management



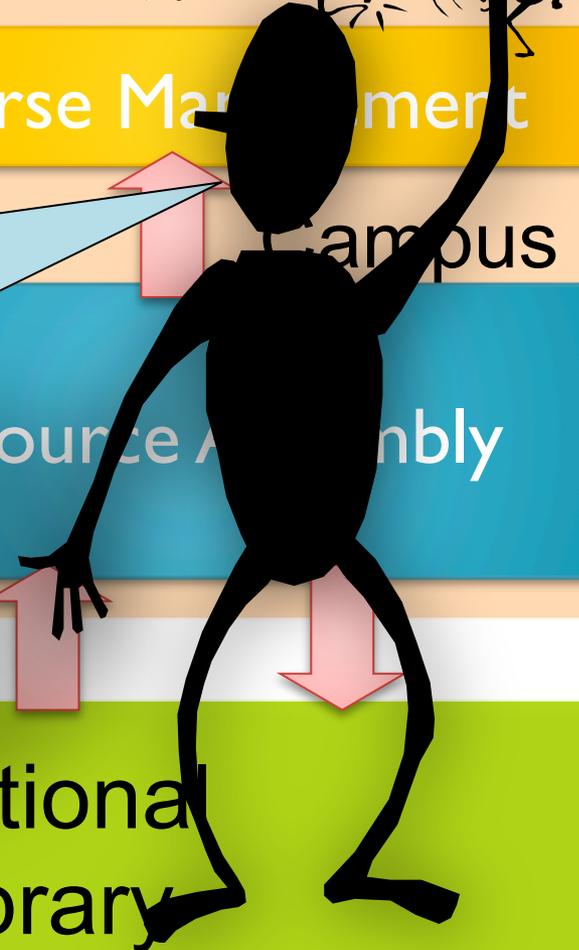
Course Management

Isn't that
rather
monolithic?

Campus B

Resource Assembly

Shared Cross-Institutional
Digital Resource Library



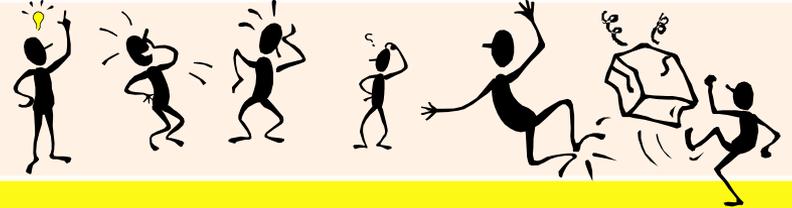
Dynamic Metadata



Course Management

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Advantage:

- Feedback from all levels
- The system gets to know the resources

Shared Cross-Institutional
Digital Resource Library



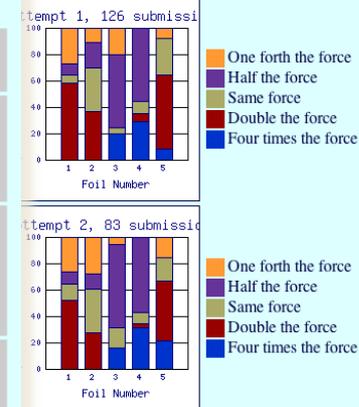
Dynamic Metadata

- Dynamic metadata from usage
- Assistance in resource selection („amazon.com“)
- Quality control

Foil Number	Foil Name	Foil Text	Correct Value
1	1_6_1_1_2	The distance between the two charges is cut in half.	Four times the force
2	1_6_1_2_2	The magnitude of both charges is doubled.	Four times the force
3	1_6_1_3_2	The magnitude of one of the two charges is doubled.	Double the force
		distance between the charges is doubled.	One forth the force
		charges are placed in a medium with a factor two higher permittivity.	Half the force

Access and Usage Statistics

Network-wide number of accesses (hits)	890
Number of resources using or importing resource	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eukaryotic Gene Control [msu/bio/Gene Expr/111f03GeneCtr1.sequence]
Number of resources that lead up to this resource in maps	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back to the Original Question [msu/bio/Gene Expr/problems/originalquestion.problem]
Number of resources that follow this resource in maps	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eukaryotic vs Prokaryotic Gene Expression II [msu/bio/Gene Expr/problems/eukvsprokII.problem]
Network-wide number of courses using resource	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LBS 145 - Spring 2004 • ZOL 341 - Fall 2003 • BS 111 - Fall 2003



Assessment Statistical Data

Total number of students who have worked on this problem	291
Average number of tries till solved	1.37
Degree of difficulty	(0.36)

Dynamic Metadata

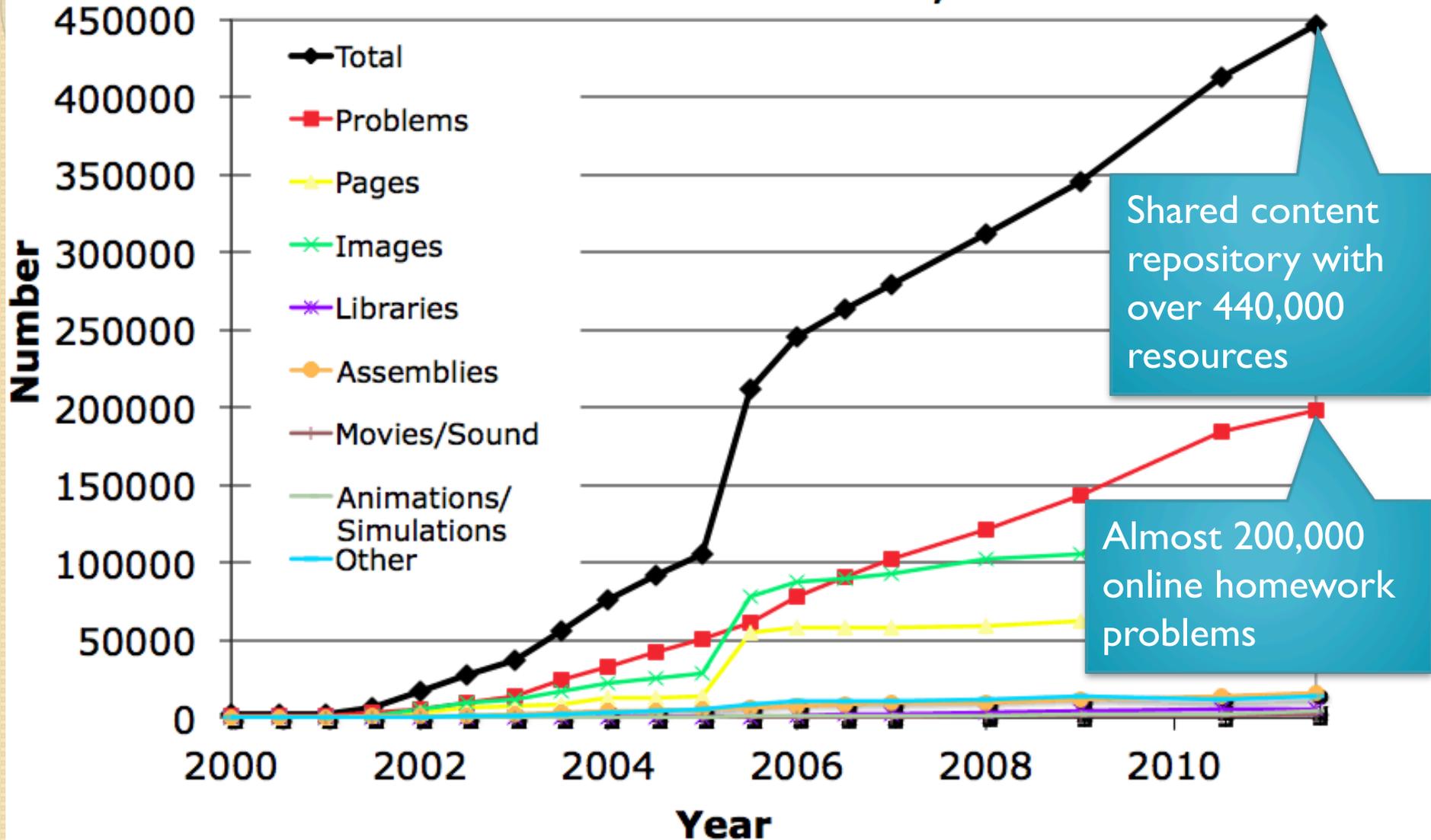
- More useful than static metadata
- Authors
 - spend hours writing beautiful resources
 - do not spend five minutes to fill out even the most basic information
- Dynamic metadata shows the resource “in action”

The LON-CAPA Community

- Does this work?
- Does it scale?

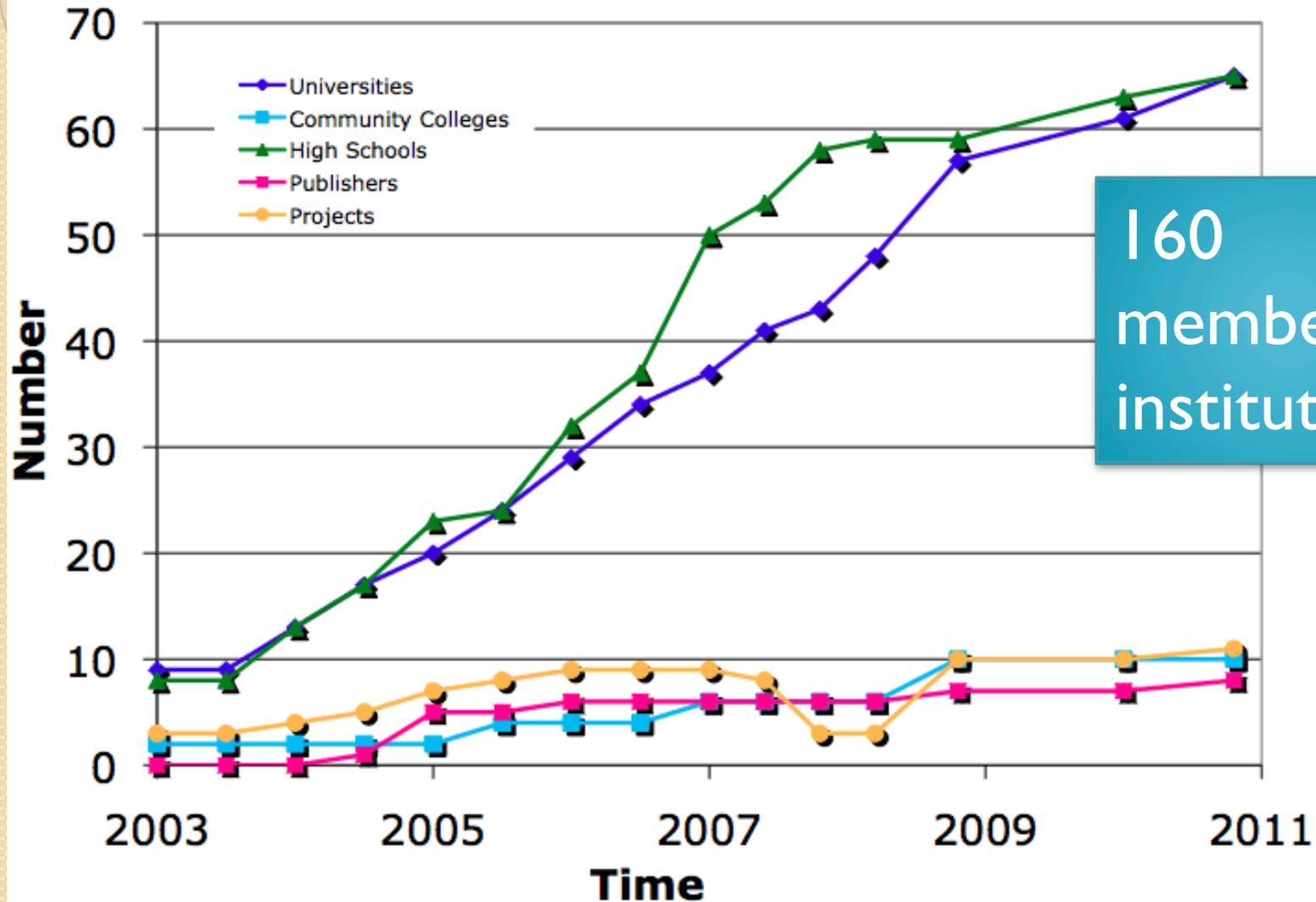
Shared Resource Library

LON-CAPA Shared Resource Pool, Summer 2011



The LON-CAPA Community

LON-CAPA Domains



160
member
institutions

The LON-CAPA Community

High Schools, Colleges, and Universities



... plus grant projects and publishing companies.

The LON-CAPA Community

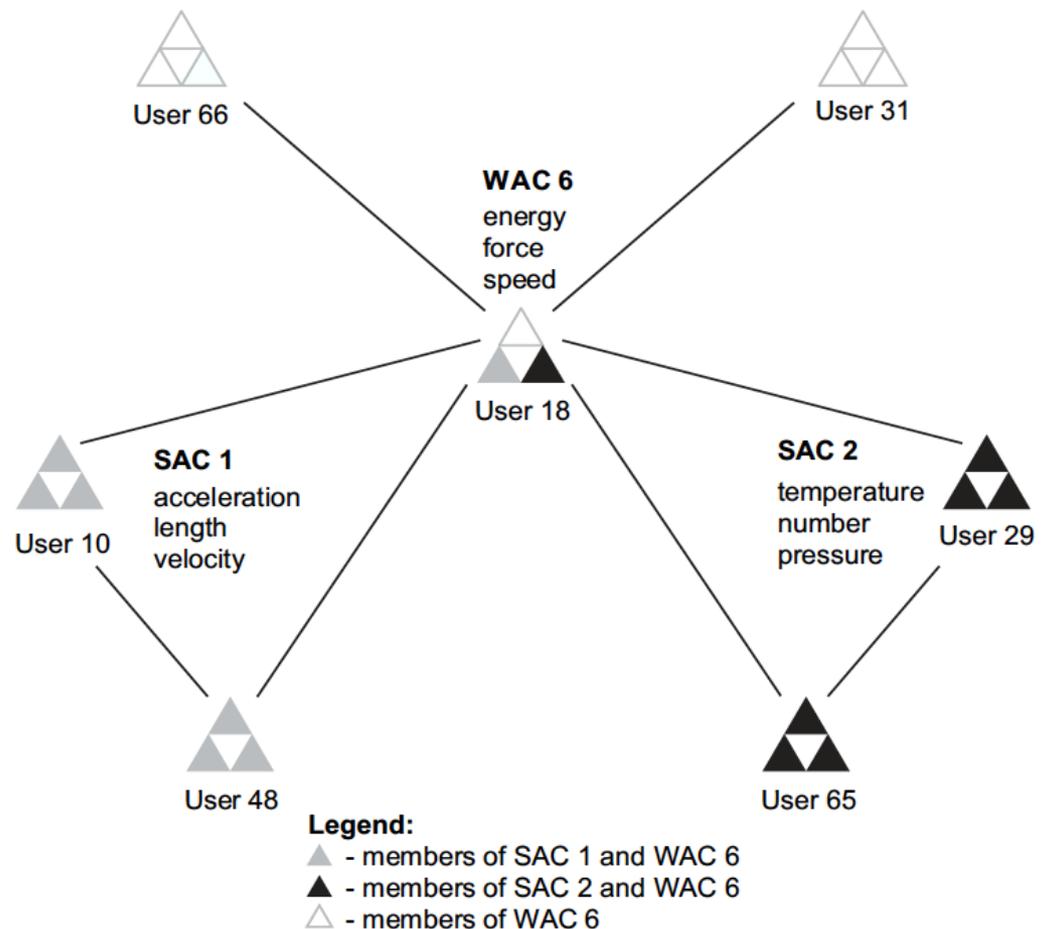
- Cross-institutional use

	U01	U04	PR01	U06	U17	U05	U03	HS20	U12	PR06	U14	U08	U09
Available	144418	17545	10809	8799	7635	7037	5120	4439	4066	3750	3283	2989	27
Used	38245	7596	340	4821	2908	4880	3411	3842	2841	1502	1231	2102	3
Used externally	17099	1804	339	974	276	3507	1735	1035	1997	1502	415	62	3
Using													
U01	38855	34790	301	105	17	49	1621	294	74	102	298	137	3
U05	11668	4881	23	14	3	33	4357	866	29	500	328	5	3
U04	10343	2393	6969		10		207	374	8	128	2	18	
U06	10089	2261	64	13	4755		305	1001	8	10	2	72	2
U03	9973	4053	58	27	5	84	1213	3173	7	728	14	166	
U08	8578	2014	1078	6	2	2	720	5					2097
HS20	6465	2138	1	47			40	350	3767	21	70	4	
CC04	6356	1156	25		2	31	1586	789	197	1522		64	7
U17	6270	2689	4	7		2813	188	205	94	140	4		2
HS40	5251	3899	22	5		40	65	293	388	70	27	16	1
U14	5135	1682	213	42	12	1	665	42		3	7	114	
U09	4246	3409	7		1			15		1		1	
U12	3768	184					136	760		2684			
HS39	3467	2101	19	20	5	2	68	26	29	1	808	71	

Old data!

The LON-CAPA Community

- Creates communities of practice!
- Connects colleagues doing the same thing



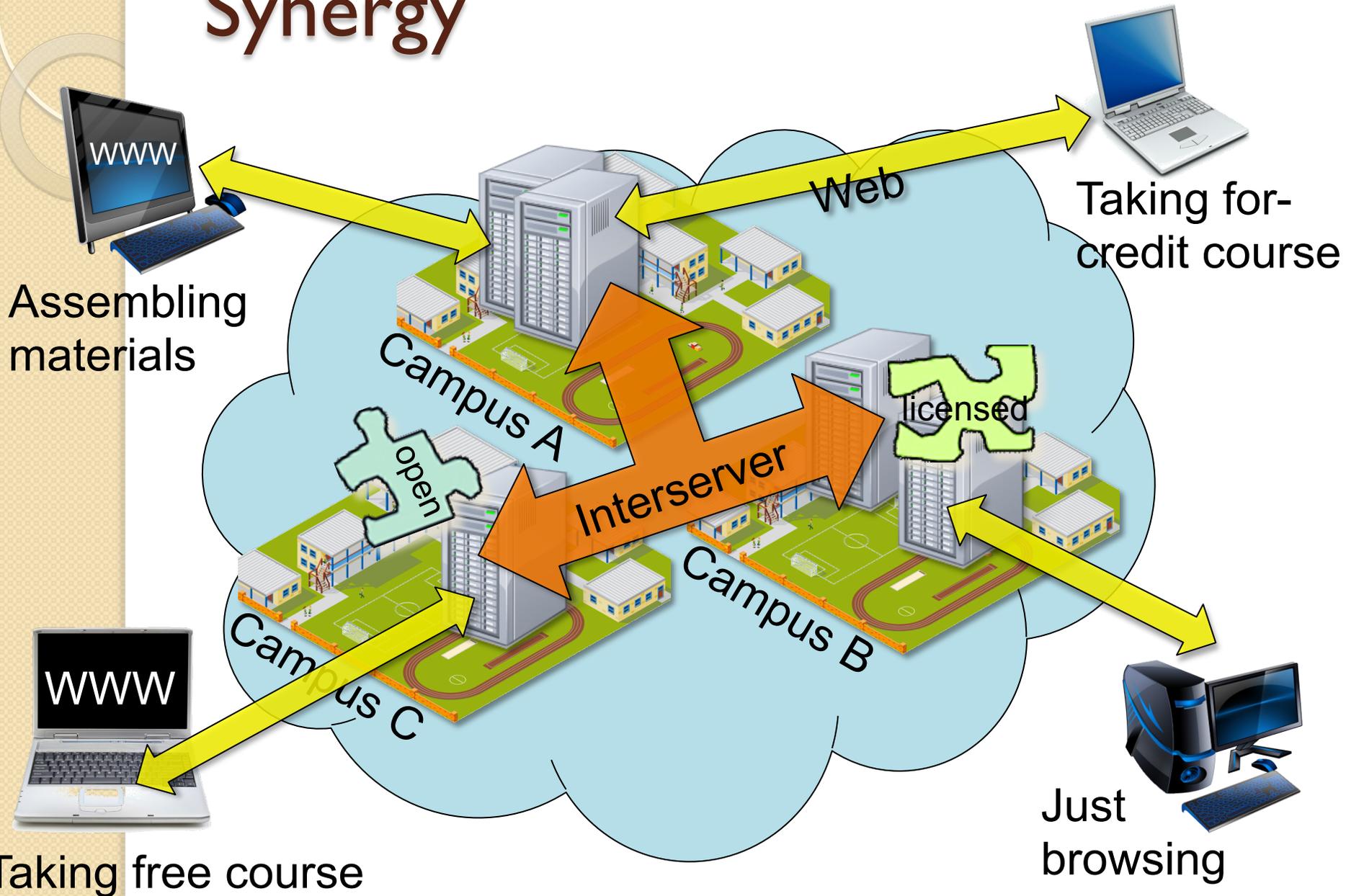
Synergy

How can all of this benefit the OER Community?

- Dynamic platform to assemble, remix, and deploy OER content
- Built-in course management
 - No download
 - No content cartridges
- Learning content management
 - Search
 - Versioning
 - Recommendations
- Digital Rights Management
 - Commercial, licensed, and open content can co-exist in the same pool
 - Expand to accommodate Creative Commons (was not around 20 years ago!)

Build a distributed OER infrastructure

Synergy



Thank you!

- Thank you!
- Gerd Kortemeyer
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<http://www.lite.msu.edu/kortemeyer/>
korte@lite.msu.edu