M25LTG Alert

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An M25 Learning Technology Group Discussion on Barriers to Opening Educational Resources

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Benefits of OER

- Administrative convenience
- Free access to quality(?) material
- Ability to re-use/re-purpose existing materials
- Share ideas/practice
- Build "knowledge communities"
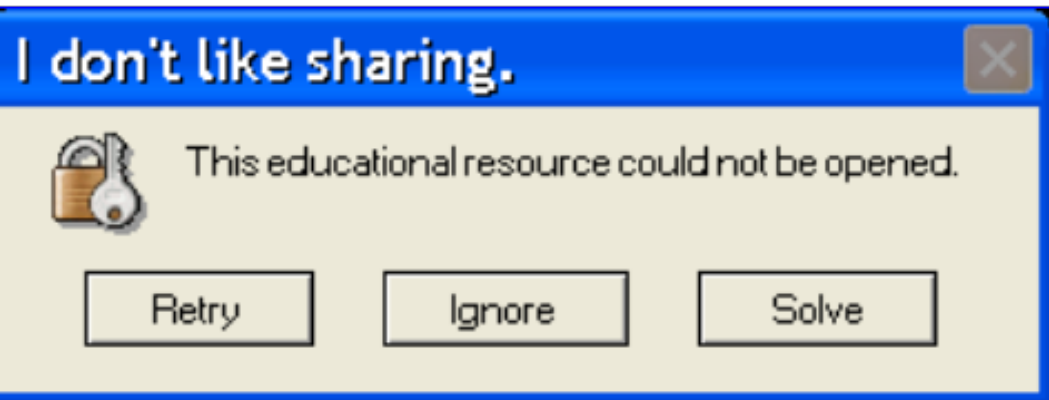- Showcase good practice, enhancing visibility and reputation (of an individual & institutional)
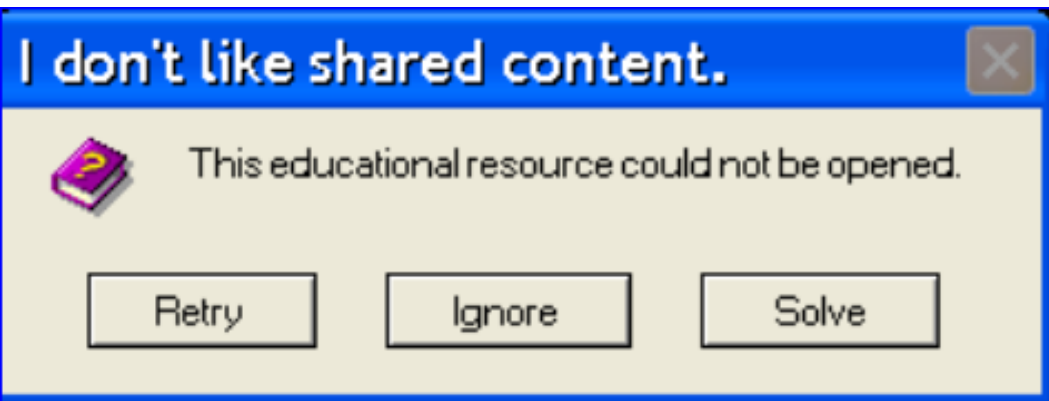
Theoretically...

Reality Check!

In practice we are not seeing this taken up by academics - or those in other educational roles.

To discuss…

I don't like sharing.

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What prevents people wanting to **share**?

I don't like shared content.

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What prevents the **use** of other people's content?

…and what are the **solutions?**

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Feedback from group discussion
@ the M25LTG Meeting, March 2010

*Question 1: What are the barriers **that stop people wanting to share** - and how can we overcome them?*

BARRIERS

- Ego (institutional ownership - vs personal?)
- IPR (questions over who owns it)
- Technical competence - not sure how to go about it
- Time contraints
- What's in it for me?
- Future use, potential mis-use concerns - where will it end up?
- Lecture capture - lack of confidence - fear of it not being 'up to scratch', or of good enough technical quality, to be shared
- Not wanting others to benefit from your hard work
- Using copyright material without permission - not wanting this exposed

SOLUTIONS

- Rewards and recognition
- Institutional credit
- Support and help
- Successful examples
- Tracking usage
- Feeback/rating system
- Preparing / pre-warning lecturers of plans to share content (by default? opt-out model?)
- Changing paradigm / attitude / culture
- Examples of sharing that have led to increased fame / enhanced reputation for the lecturer or institution
- More people doing it
- More money / incentives

Question 2: *What are the barriers to **making use of other people's content** and how can we overcome them?*

BARRIERS

- Quality issues - "a lot of it is crap"
- Time - to search and identify appropriate repository/quality resources and then adapt.
- Technical problems - e.g. download and in wrong format
- Habit - a) people dont know there are all these repositories; b) past experiences; c) people use Google
- Culture - "sharing is not something we do"
- Division between academics and information/e-learning specialists
- Some people just prefer to develop material themselves.
- Inconsistency of look and feel if cobbling together "borrowed" materials
- Fear of using copyright material

SOLUTIONS

- Use resources which are short/small and easy to find, and which you cannot easily produce yourself - e.g. movie, flash learning object
- Make common resources (e.g. referencing) which can be re-used
- Search/discovery - making it easier for someone to find what they need
- Skills development
- Format must not matter
- More e-learners! more learning technologists!
- Share good practices, develop more opportunities to share practice and the habit of sharing
- Develop a cultural shift
- Use Google - 'cos it works!
- Write it yourself since you know your learners!

Thanks for participating!

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