INTRODUCTION TO CLOUD CONCEPTS

Fact sheet

Purpose:	Explain what cloud concepts are, and provide some examples
Audience:	Deakin University colleagues who are a chair or tutor in a unit of study
Why learn about cloud concepts:	Cloud concepts can improve learning materials through the use of technology. As part of the Course Enhancement Process, Deakin Learning Futures offers assistance in creating cloud concepts for each course

What is a cloud concept?

The term *cloud computing* is often used interchangeably with *cloud learning* as both utilise cloud technology to offer a synchronous online experience. The cloud put simply, is a shared computer 'in the sky'. Cloud computing allows users to be location-independent, and generally relies on Internet connections to transfer data. Google Drive and Dropbox are good examples of cloud computing technology. Cloud learning however, is a space that utilises the cloud to provide a platform to engage with learning materials. It is in this space that we utilise *cloud concepts* for teaching and learning.

When we talk about cloud concepts at Deakin, we are referring to enhancing or transforming teaching and learning through the use of technology. Cloud concepts may be used to add 'life' to a key concept or area of study; help to explain a complex idea; or enhance student engagement.

For example, a cloud concept could replace a tired narrated PowerPoint into an active video of the unit chair talking to camera and showing students real-life examples of the topic area. It could also take a concept that students have difficulty understanding, and create an animation that shows the concept in a whole new way. Deakin cloud concepts are similar to recordings in that they can be replayed as many times as needed.

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As part of the Course Enhancement Process, Deakin is providing support to courses to create their own cloud concepts. This could be as simple as instruction on how to make a video using a web cam and some graphics; or filming an expert speaker using your iPad. Alternatively, if time and budget allow, you may wish to develop a more complex key concept that shows a particular process taking place in the field, such as a demonstration of wound stitching technique in a hospital setting; or the use of a theodolite in surveying.

Next steps

Explore Deakin Learning Future's **storyboard page**[1]. Storyboards are used to plan your cloud concept in detail before you start shooting – similar to how you might prepare a lesson plan before a lecture. View additional examples on the **Lectures to cloud concepts page**[2] on the DLF website.

1 Deakin Learning Future's storyboard page: http://www.deakin.edu.au/learning/course-enhancements/from-lectures-to-cloud-concepts/storyboards

2 Deakin Learning Future's Lectures to cloud concepts page: http://www.deakin.edu.au/learning/course-enhancements/from-lectures-to-cloud-concepts

Examples of cloud concepts

Title	Purpose	Techniques used	Resources used
Using intelligent agents in CloudDeakin air.deakin.edu.au/public/media/Using+Intelligent+Agents+in+D2L/0_hl3ilso7	Explains how to use Intelligent Agents tool in CloudDeakin to address student retention, academic progress and/or motivating positive learning behaviours	• Voiceover (scripted) with images • 'Talking head' (interview with staff member) • Music to break the video up into separate phases	• MacBook Air • 'Apogee' brand microphone • Software packages; iMovie, Camtasia, Logic, Final Cut Pro • Royalty free music and images iStock Photo www.istockphoto.com
Psychoanalysis air.deakin.edu.au/public/media/Psychoanalysis/0_6jcge4d7	Overview of the development of psychoanalysis	• Recorded voiceover by a lecturer along with accompanying images	• The entire movie was created using an iPad and a smart phone
Aerodynamics air.deakin.edu.au/public/media/Aerodynamics/0_6ydjovw4	Explains and demonstrates the main aspects of a race-car which generates down force	• Brief animation • Based on a hand-drawn car created in MS Paint • Image imported to the iPad using Dropbox	• iPad with the app 'Explain Everything' www.explaineverything.com • Video was edited with iMovie on a MacBook
Fostering collaboration using Mediawiki acgol.deakin.edu.au/learning-futures/examples/osman-schlegel.php	Teaching practices for a particular construction unit: shows different aspects of assessments and how Mediawiki enhances assessment process for students and the lecturer	• Voice over • Animated computer images of a website	• Unit uses Mediawiki to involve students in authentic learning tasks and group work
Golf swing air.deakin.edu.au/public/media/SEM327+Dynamics+of+machines+-+Physics+of+a+golf+swing/0_97e6ds8o	Explains physics of a golf swing with video and text	• On-site recording • Text as an addition to the side of the screen and also drawn over the actual movements of the video	• External filming resources • Planning (including a script and storyboard) is essential for this type of video
Using video in the cloud acgol.deakin.edu.au/learning-futures/examples/segmentation.php	This video shows one way to use the cloud to help students understand a difficult concept	• Webcam and other media used to explain this concept to students in a way that will engage them	• Webcam • Laptop (or desktop computer) • Software such as iMovie • Planning (including finding music and video with copyright approval) is essential for this type of video
Khan Academy – Newton, Leibniz and Usain Bolt www.khanacademy.org/math/calculus/differential-calculus/intro_differential_calc/v/newton-leibniz-and-usain-bolt	The Khan Academy is a not-for-profit website containing free education videos available to anyone (use outside of the Khan site should be approved by the copyright team)	• Voiceovers and text on a screen (similar to using a smart board) • Larger concepts are broken up into smaller chunks with none of the videos being more than 10 minutes long	• Laptop • Images sourced online (copyright checked) • Handwriting software. • Camtasia and iTunes. (Deakin staff have access to these programs)
Scholars online www.choices.edu/resources/scholarsonline.php	Expert presenters reinforce key concepts, provide context and authenticity to readings and course materials	• Short expert interviews	• iPad or external video camera