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Title: Sustaining Innovation but Keeping Control?

Abstract: Although the use of technology to support and enhance learning has become a normal part of Higher Education, the majority of this use is focused on "VLEs". Those working in IS departments have worked hard to link their VLEs up to their corporate systems and help their institution embed technology supported learning into the learning experience.   But not only has the use of VLEs become increasingly orthodox, but the supremacy of the VLE is being increasingly challenged by new systems such as ePortfolio systems, portals and learning repositories, and by "user contolled" systems and applications from the world of "Web 2.0".   Is the VLE now a barrier to innovation and, if so, how will institutions cope with this "new world" where not everything is under the control of the institution? The answer, Mark will propose, is in confronting the growing conflict between innovation and corporate control by examining the associated policy issues.

Biography: Mark Stiles is Professor of Technology Supported Learning at Staffordshire University where he is Head of Learning Development and Innovation. Mark leads a team which has corporate responsibility for "eLearning" and which, as well as driving and supporting developments at the University, carries out research and development work in the strategy, policy, pedagogic and technical aspects of technology supported learning (TSL). Mark has been working in these areas for many years, and lead the development of one of the first VLEs - COSE. The current main focuses of Mark's own work are on strategy and policy for TSL and the use of technology to support work-based learning. Mark is Deputy Chair of the UK JISC's Learning and Teaching Committee, Chair of the JISC-CETIS Board, and represents the JISC and UK HE as a member of the Board of Directors of the IMS Global Consortium.