



Mobile learning at the University of Helsinki - from vision to implementation

Educational Centre for ICT
University of Helsinki

Heikki Kynäslahti

heikki.kynaslahti@helsinki.fi

Pauliina Seppälä

pauliina.o.seppala@helsinki.fi



Motives

- need for flexible studying modes
- wireless campus areas emerging
- the university changing towards 'four campus model'
- students do not live at campuses
- in general, mobility characterises the current phase of the Finnish information society



mLearning concept – Educational theory of mobility

- Is there a(ny) phenomenon called 'mobility'
 - what about mobility in education
- Obviously, mLearning (or its variants) is the proper concept



Elements of mobility

- Convenience / rationality
 - Expediency
 - Immediacy
-

- Quality of life
- Flexibility



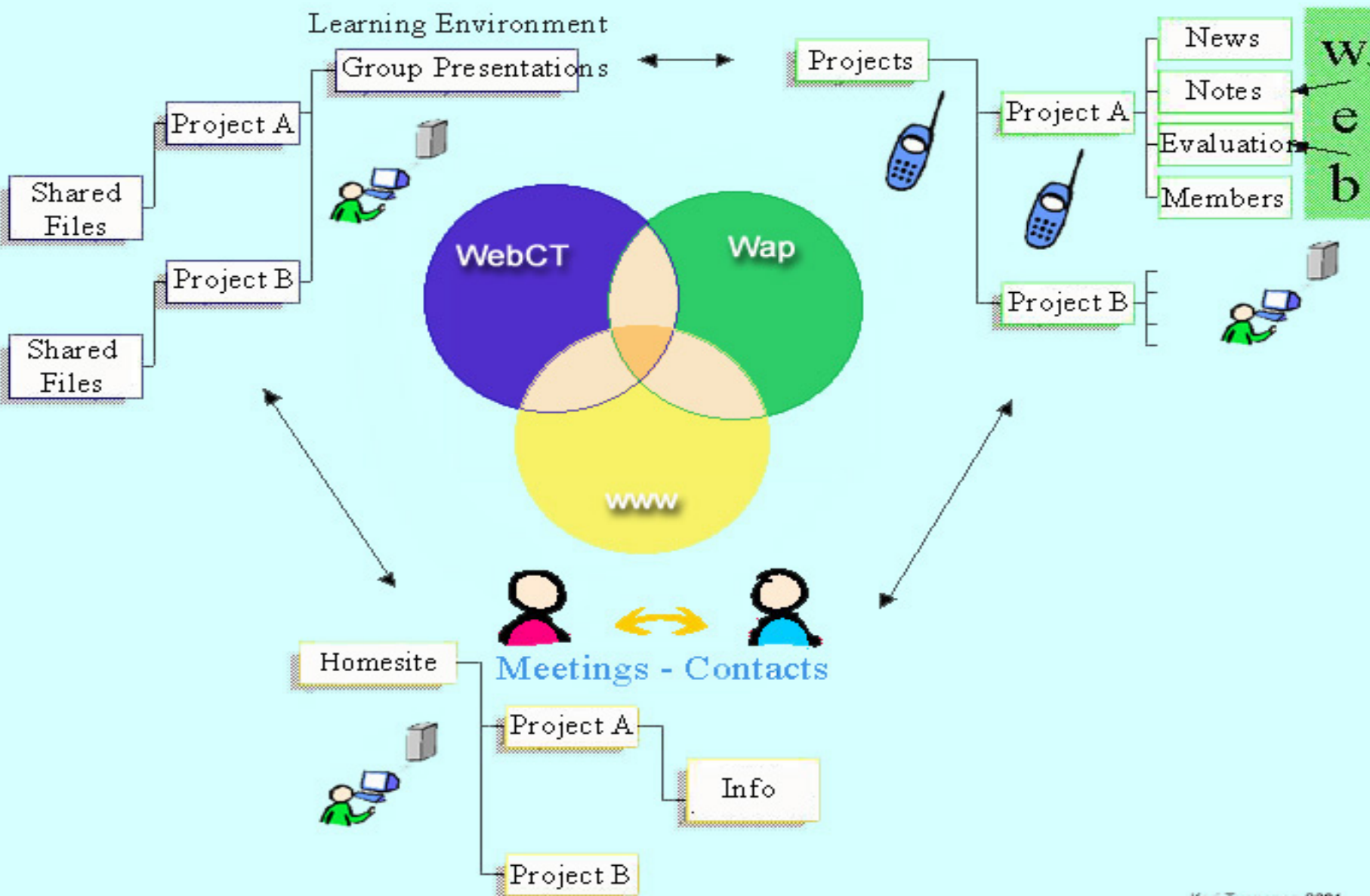
Pilots

- Personnel Training
- Department of Home Economics and Craft Science
- Department of Forest Resource Management



Personnel training 2001

- piloting in university ICT-personnel training (Ope.fi)
- 25 university teachers used wap-phone in their workprojects





The Uniwap was mainly used

1. Minimessages
2. Discussions and information between groupmembers
3. Mentors additional guidance and clarifications how to proceed in project



Department of Home Economics and Craft Science

- teacher training



Department of Home Economics and Craft Science

- Real student life and studying situations
- 11 students and 5 teachers
- 10 Nokia 9210 Communicators and 2 Casio digital cameras
- Generation groupware together with Uniwap
- Digital picture, "mini-notes" and feed-back in Uniwap II (web-browser)

<http://uniwap.helsinki.fi/editor>



Home Economics teacher training – practice period

- Groupware (Generation): lesson plans, portfolio, delivery of learning materials
- Uniwap: picture transfer, feedback of lessons, information using sms-messages

Idea: Supervisor or fellow student take pictures on a lesson and download them to Uniwap-database with textual feedback.



Results

- participants sent 388 messages to database
334 pictures
30 SMS-messages

"Pictures empowered my home economics teachers identity. You could see yourself as a teacher in a classroom surrounded by pupils. It was convenient to recall the actual situation using pictures." (comment by a student)



Example picture taken during a lesson



Results

- mobility was experienced meaningful in supervising
 - access to the database was easy
 - participants worked with mobile devices in metro, in buss, in train...
 - supervisor and students could reach each other any where any time
 - during the lessons mobile device was used to make notes for later feedback



Department of Forest Resource Management



Department of Forest Resource Management

- 14 students and 3 teachers
- BSCW groupware and Uniwap
- Two groups of students: one in forest, another in computer room
- Forest group takes pictures and send them with GPS-coordinates to the database for analysis

<http://uniwap.helsinki.fi/editor>



Transfer of pictures
from camera to
Communicator to be
sent to database
(with coordinates)

kkj27 x3390049 y6681158 z11 246
ast. date 100402 13:23



Thank You! - Further Information

Project Manager

Janne Sariola

janne.sariola@helsinki.fi

Planning officer

Pauliina Seppälä

pauliina.o.seppala@helsinki.fi

Researcher

Heikki Kynäslahti

heikki.kynaslahti@helsinki.fi