

Notes: Conversations with Brad Wheeler and Rob Lowden, Indiana University

Brad Wheeler, May 30, 2013, Washington DC 12:00 – 13:30

The conversation began discussing higher education's response, or perhaps lack of response, to the avalanche of MOOC press releases. Shared frustration with neither of us in a position for immediate constructive contribution. Brad commented, as a professor, businesses are seeking students have skills for collaboration and communication. He implied the current MOOC technology may be an insufficient learning technology; student interaction would be preferable or may be required.

The conversation began discussing the additional investment universities are making in purchasing (University of Texas) and upgrading (University of Minnesota) traditional ERP suites. Because of Indiana University's savings from replacing commercially licensed and supported ERP software (\$10 million), this experience may be a good case study. An external case study could both cite this experience and document comparisons between what the research universities are spending and similar size businesses (as reported by Panorama Consulting Solutions Inc. in a series of papers).

We also discussed the costs of federal regulations in the context of modifications and extensions required for administrative system by Congressional action. I said I would provide him with a copy of the spreadsheet I did for the Hartford Guardian. (It has been sent).

I complimented Jerry Neal as an excellent representative of the Kualu Foundation. After providing some KSA (Kualu Student Accounts) performance data, Jerry Neal scheduled a two-day work session with the KSA Team. I said Jerry was an excellent listener and communicated well with those who were not masters of the technology. He left with specific information about screens that failed (as well as those that performed very well) expecting to improve performance.

During Jerry's visit he mentioned the KRAD (Kualu Rapid Application Design) would incorporate Twitter Bootleg software in the July 31st release. Performance data was not yet available. (Twitter version 3.0 will follow soon; there is a release version available now).

Brad said others were monitoring performance, but was interested in progress.

I reported I had provided Rob Lowden an "unsolicited" description of how Kualu Student could use a discussed additional contribution as an event for increasing public awareness. Brad said a better opportunity would be when Indiana University implemented MyPlan using developed university software for integration with the PeopleSoft student system. Although Brad did not use the term, it seemed such a suggestion with a June 7th event would be distracting from other discussions.

Rob Lowden, Indiana University, telephone call, May 30, 1515-1600

Rob expected the production date for MyPlan at Indiana University to be 12 September. That includes completion of the code for integration with Indiana's PeopleSoft student system.

I repeated the positive comments about Jerry Neal's work. Rob was pleased to hear the meeting was productive.

I said I did have some concerns about future performance, especially with the adoption of Twitter Bootstrap and the forthcoming "Mobile First" Bootstrap version 3.0.

Bootstrap was originally a Twitter project.

Bootstrap was developed by Mark Otto and Jacob Thornton at Twitter as a framework to encourage consistency across internal tools. Before Bootstrap, various libraries were used for interface development, which led to inconsistencies and a high maintenance burden. ... In August, 2011 Twitter released Bootstrap as open-source. As of February 2012, it is the most popular [downloaded] GitHub development project.

The JavaScript components of Bootstrap are based on the jQuery JavaScript library. Plugins are accordingly found in the jQuery toolkit plugins.

Wikipedia, 25 May 2013

Developer Mark Otto left Twitter for GitHub, but commits full-time to Bootstrap development. Twitter continues to provide GitHub support for the project.

We agreed to communicate further concerning potential public relations about the Kualu Student MyPlan implementation as an event for public communication. Rob may provide the potential plan for public communication of a possible Kualu Student event.¹

¹ A copy of the document is attached.