Education 4.0 and the Age of Integration

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Outline: Building Education 4.0 and the Digital Campus.

Did we, collectively, really do anything truly innovative in response to the pandemic and our sudden shift to fully online teaching, or did we just email student links to Zoom calls? I'm going to put this in perspective: I think we went backwards. At least (pre-pandemic) our learning environments (lecture theatres, tutorial rooms and labs) were integrated components of our campus. Going into the pandemic, universities already suffered from highly fragmented software platforms, serving mostly as an adjunct to the physical experience. During 2020-2021, the fragmented software platforms *became* the digital campus, and no university on earth did it well. By adding Zoom and a litany of other desperate solutions to the software stack, the fragmentation count of our digital campuses went from 1,700 to 1,750: real number (for UNSW), more software, more chaos.

After 2,000 years spent figuring out how to do the physical campus right, we are today in the dark ages of the digital campus. The first step is simple, get the metaphorical buildings in one place: digital integration. This is my attempt at showing what's possible with an integrated Digital Campus and Education 4.0.