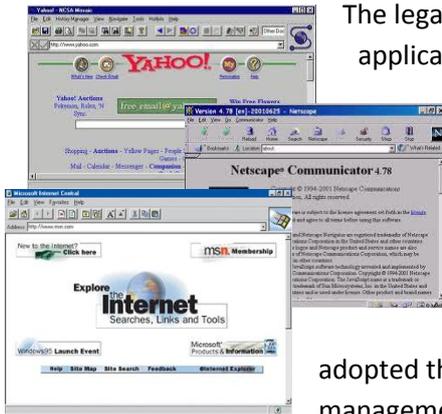# The Legacy Internet[1]

The legacy internet describes the development, presentation, use and application of popular internet based technologies and services that we have grown familiar with over the last decade or more. At the present moment in time we are seeing the legacy internet being superseded by more visual, semantic and intuitive technologies and services.

The education sector has benefitted enormously from the use of the legacy internet. Schools, colleges and universities have widely adopted the use of web based education services that are hosted on learning management systems, virtual and managed learning environments and learning platforms. When these platforms were in their infancy they provided educational establishments with a number of services that included file storage, web based access to course materials and basic communication tools. The popularity of these services was due in part to the fact that they supported prevailing education pedagogies.

These web based services were and still are populated by text based learning and assessment materials. Over the last decade publishers have embedded video, animations and simple interactive elements into learning these packages, but the characteristics of these materials mean that they very much belong to the legacy internet.

The legacy internet is also defined by prevailing practices, norms and cultures within the education sector. These practices will gradually change with the rise and adoption of post PC devices, the take up of education social networks and with the rise of emerging technologies such as 3D and augmented reality. The adoption of these next generation technologies will shape future pedagogies. These technologies and services will promote the use of more visual and interactive forms of learning. The new digital pedagogies will continue to promote, foster and value more intuitive and active forms of learning, teaching and assessment methods.

It may come as a surprise to learn that the period of the legacy internet was characterised by gradual changes in education technologies and web based services. These were managed with relative ease by many schools, colleges and universities but since then the rate of change has become more rapid and it will place increasing pressure on education budget holders to manage the procurement and management of ICT hardware and services.

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1. The legacy internet is a term coined by Bruce Sterling. His description of the legacy internet can also be applied to other services and technologies that are used by the education sector.