Student Data from VLEs: Approaches at Edinburgh

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Learning, Teaching and Web Services

Background

- Age, size
- Degrees
- Demographics
- Initiatives

Projects background

Project 1 - 2014

Existing options – Learn

- BIRT Reports
- Course Reports
- Stats column option in the grade center
- Average grade display
- Retention Centre
- Performance Dashboard
- Google Analytics
- 3rd Party tools - BB Learning Analytics, Eesysoft

Existing options - Moodle

- Intelliboard.net

- GradeTracker (Bedford College)

- Personal Learning Plan (Bedford College)

- Engagement Analytics ("Traffic Lights")

- Forum Graph

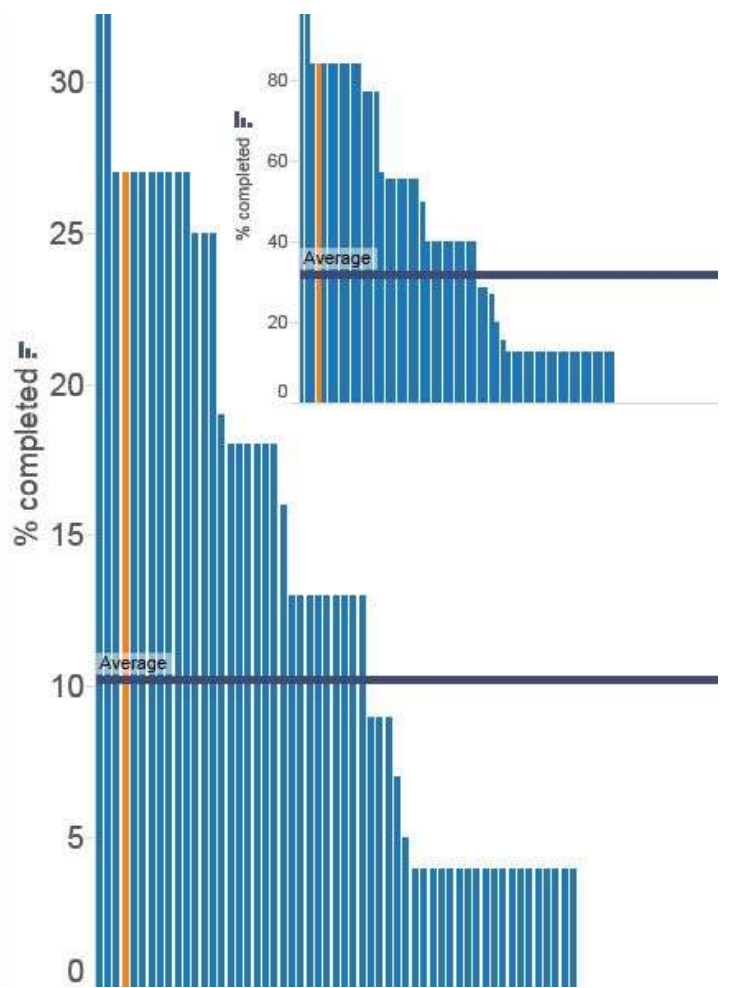- Activity Analytics using AWS – in-house adapted plug-in

Tableau image from Dr Paula Smith, University of Edinburgh

User Stories

User Stories

- 92 stories from 18 staff / 32 students
- As a ... I want to ... so that I can ...

Mandatory	4
In Scope	38
Already Available / in scope	35
Not in scope but of interest	21
Not in scope and already available	6

Staff concerns

As a teacher / personal tutor I want to have measures of activity of the students so that I can be alerted to who are "falling by the wayside".

As a teacher I want to see detailed patterns of activity in the VLE so that I can judge whether some activities are more typical of "deep learning" or the "strong student"
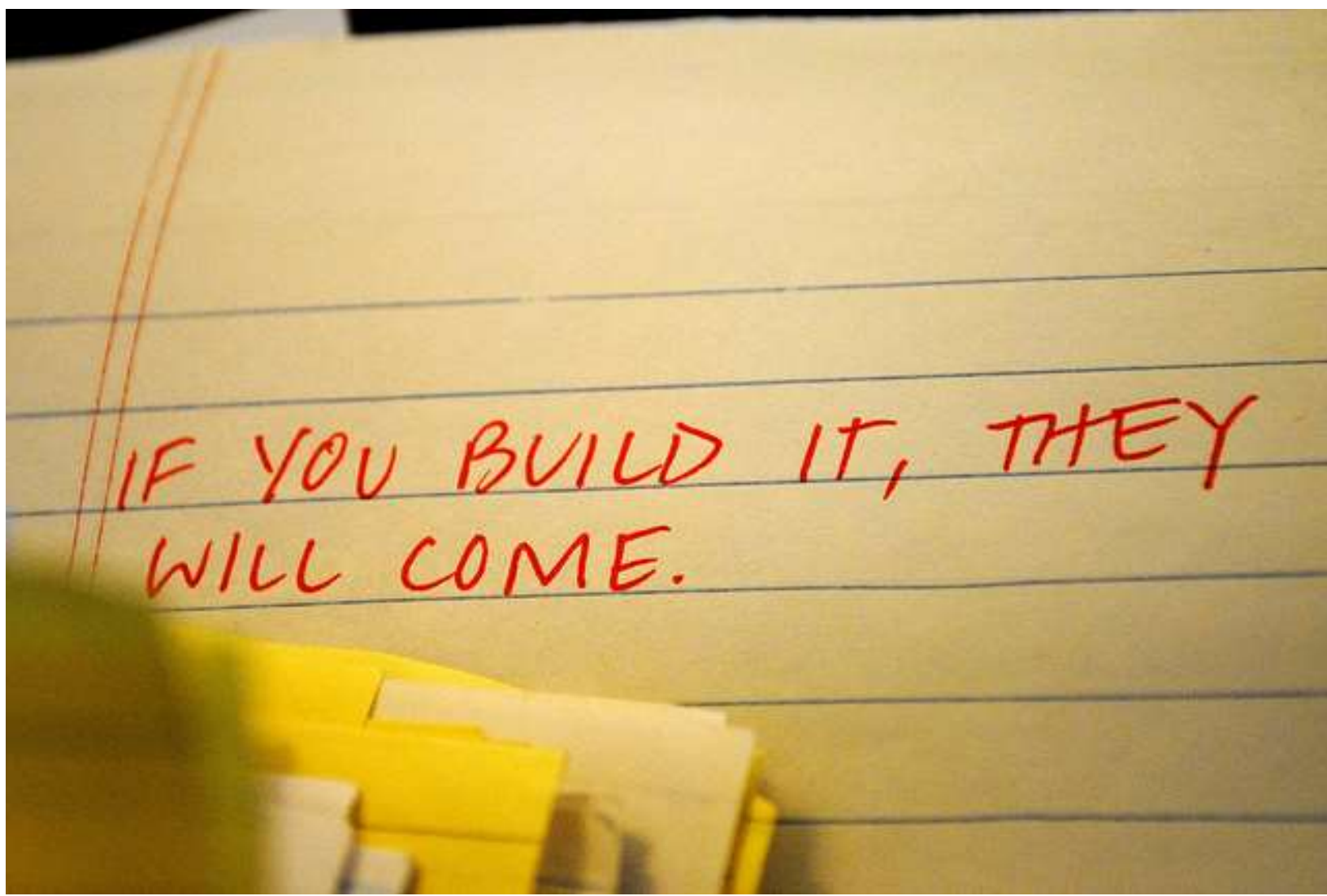
As a teacher I want to know which students are feeling isolated so that I can contact them at an appropriate time

Student Concerns

As a student I want to see how my mark compares to the class average and what the highest and lowest are and marks are anonymised so that I can track my progress and see how my performance compares to the best and worst marks so I can get an idea of where I stand.

As a final year student I want to have a timetable\chart of dates when submissions are due (plus possibly weighting of the assignment) so that I can keep track of when essays are due and access a neat overview.
This way I can plan ahead and organise better.

The University of Edinburgh
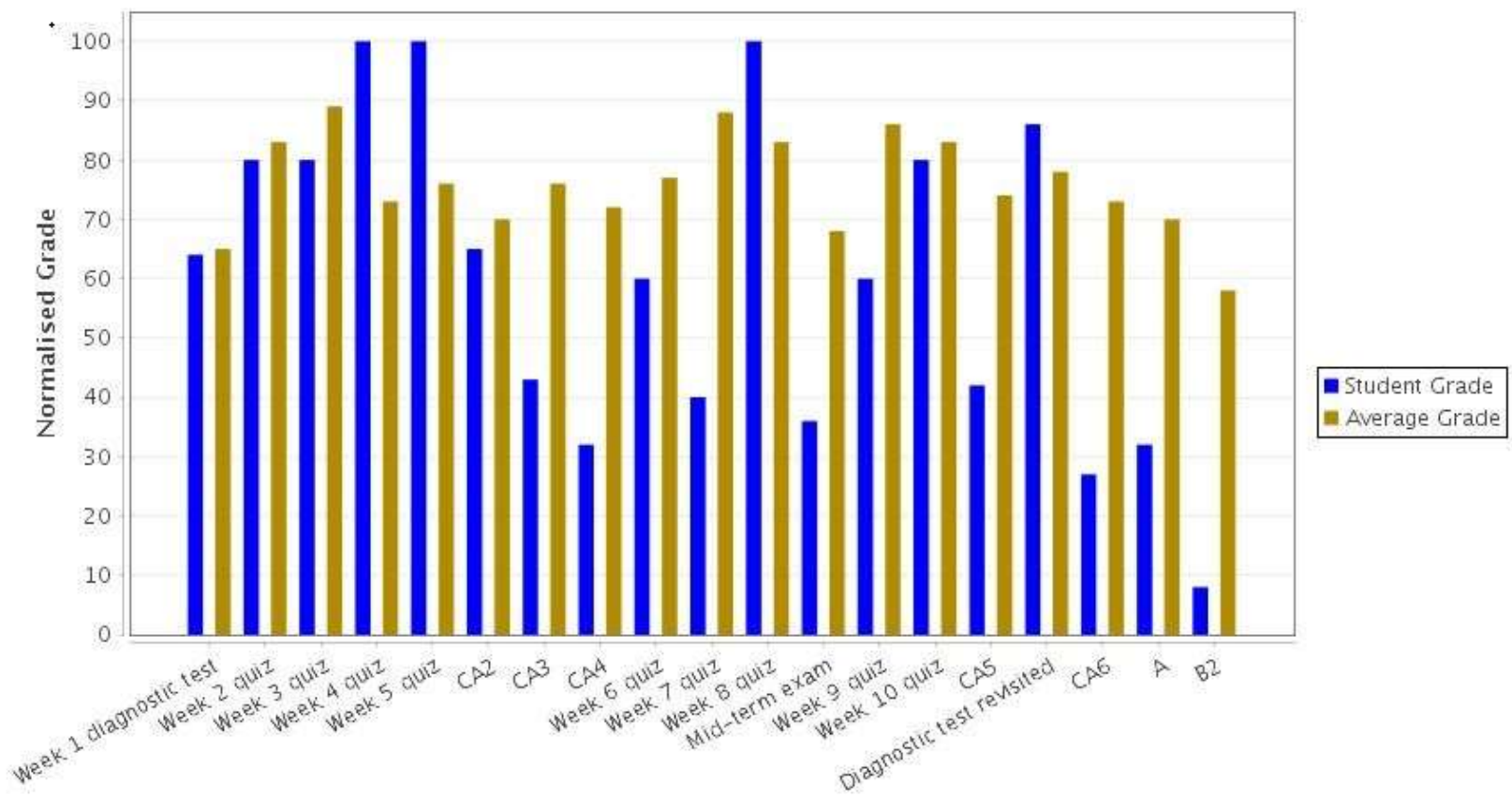
For students (Learn)

Activity map

Week starting	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
2014-05-05	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
2014-05-12	0	0	0	12	0	12	0
2014-05-19	30	0	0	0	0	0	3
2014-05-26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2014-06-02	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2014-06-09	0	0	16	0	0	11	12
2014-06-16	12	12	0	32	24	27	3
2014-06-23	0	1	9	9	0	0	0
2014-06-30	0	0	42	0	0	0	0
2014-07-07	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2014-07-14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2014-07-21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2014-07-28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2014-08-04	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2014-08-11	0	0	0	6	30	32	51
2014-08-18	35	12	0	0	0	0	0
2014-08-25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2014-09-01	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
2014 09 08	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Legend
values below 10
values between 10 and 20
values between 20 and 30
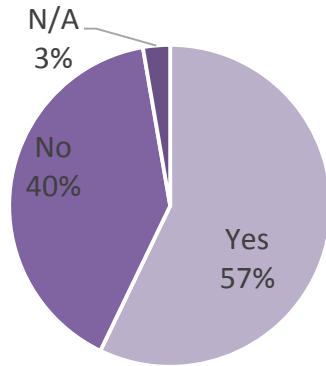values between 30 and 40
values above 40

Gradebook data for:

Survey responses (n=148)

- Activity information useful – 32%
- Grade information useful – 97%

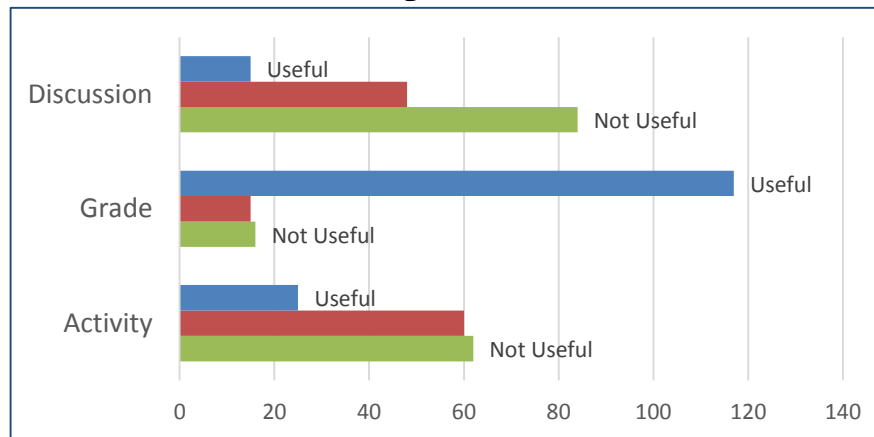| How often would you check it?	
Daily	6
Weekly	47
Monthly	64
Once a year	24
Never	2
N/A	5

Will it change your Learning Behaviour?

N/A
3%

No
40%

Yes
57%

32% - having access to the average grade data would have an impact on their learning behaviour (both positively and negatively).

7% - the grade average could motivate them to work harder.

• What information you would find useful?

Discussion

Useful

Not Useful

Grade

Useful

Not Useful

Activity

Useful

Not Useful

0   20   40   60   80   100   120   140

16

The grade component would keep me
aware of my performance and make me
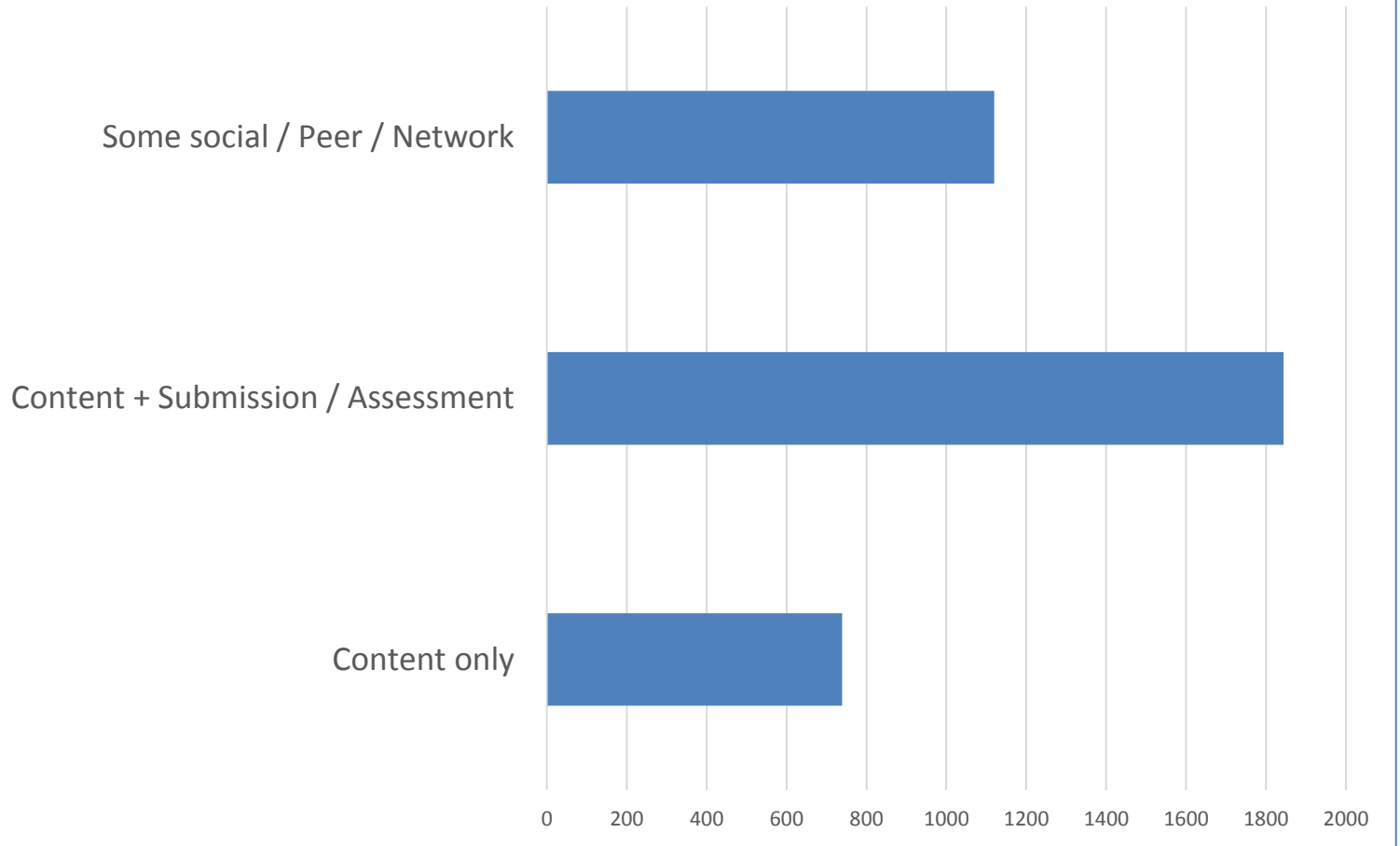aware of others as well

whether my grades are good or not I can find out myself by
talking to my PT, data like this is not instructive to me
individually, I have my own needs and goals

Not really except for a slight increase in paranoia regarding grades

Grade comparison would give me a better
idea of how I am coping compared to
others

Outcomes to date

- Context is all!
- Must work for individuals and course-level
- Building Block and Plug-ins
- Mapping our territory
- Staff Awareness
- Student Awareness
- Learning Support – contextual, individual, actionable, reflective
- Institution-level engagement

Planning for 2015/16

Décio Villares (1851-1931). Study for Brave New World Photo: Gedley Belchior Braga.
By Projetodelrei (Own work) via Wikimedia Commons

Thank-you!

- Thanks to colleagues at Edinburgh
- Myles Blaney, Steph Hay, Ross Ward, Paula Smith

- Wilma.Alexander@ed.ac.uk