

Nursing IT



Opportunity for Symbiotic Learning: Nursing IT Experience

Peter Cogill, Anne Nortcliffe, Elaine Stringer, and Bridget Winwood (ACES and HWB)

Abstract

Previous research indicated that Nursing students lack IT competence, but have strong social skills and Computing students have good ICT knowledge, but need the opportunity to develop social skills to increase their employability.

Therefore both sets of learners would benefit from a symbiotic project to improve their employability and professional skills.

Introduction

The project aims to develop employability and professional skills of Nursing and IT

- sustainable peer-assisted learning framework to provide a mutually beneficial peer-assisted learning opportunity
- learning mechanism to identify and evaluate their skills deficiency and development in both sets of students
- method of promoting student learner autonomy

Implementation

Nursing IT was offered as a development (venture) opportunity in Sheffield Hallam University's Venture Matrix, for Level 5 IT students to:

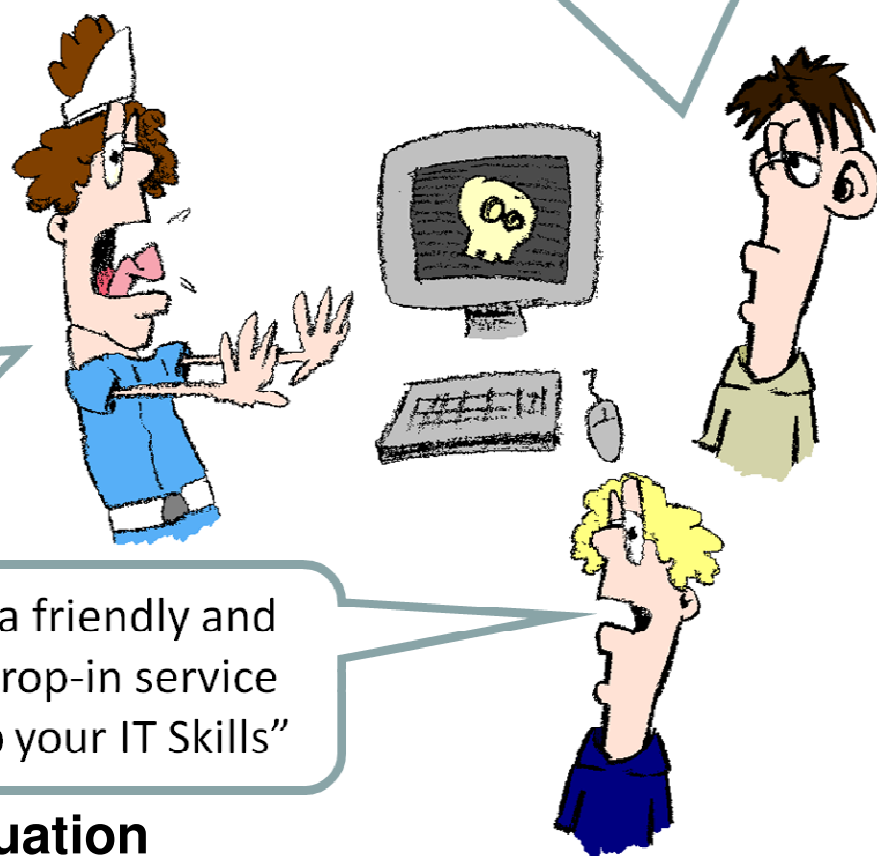
- manage, market and provide a service provision
- provide regular lunchtime IT clinic for level 4 Nursing students
- develop the Nursing students digital fluency, and their employability skills
- receive feedback on their employability skills; communication, interpersonal, negotiation, and management

Two IT groups were successfully recruited to provide the service on Monday and Tuesday lunchtime for 2 hours each day.

"Help! I need help with my IT Skills"

"We offer a friendly and personal drop-in service to develop your IT Skills"

"Don't worry Nursing IT is here to help Mon and Tues, 12-1pm, RWB 344"



Evaluation

All stakeholders recognised the potential and sustainability of this service. Key Learning:

- created good cross-faculty communication and sharing of expertises both staff and students
- only small number of nursing students took the opportunity to use the service, but valued the support they received
- computing students enjoyed the opportunity to disseminate their IT skills

Future Plans

- recruit potential IT students service providers earlier, i.e. in Level 4 semester 2.
- ensure designated room space provided for service, and prominent marketing of service
- link/embedded with level 4 HWB study skill module, HWB students will be required to self-assess IT Skills and provide evidence base IT skills improvement through using Nursing IT



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