Myth busting education in a virtual world – changing demands and directions
The Panel

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Some questions that may be answered

• Virtual worlds are not a platform in which one should do business.
• Virtual worlds offer no educational value.
• Anything you can do in a virtual world you can do somewhere else.
• Virtual worlds are too complicated for students.
• Virtual worlds take too long for academics, teachers and students to learn. *Second Life* is really expensive.
• Why not just use Skype instead of using a virtual world for conversations?
• *Second Life* is not scalable.
• You need to be a computer geek to be effective with using a virtual world.
• Virtual worlds won’t survive; the ‘hype’ is over.
• *Second Life* is designed to be all things to all people; thus, it is not good for specialised activities such as teaching and learning.
• There are risks to students, as *Second Life* is all about sex, gambling and entertainment.
• There are too many distractions in *Second Life*.
• Young kids aren’t allowed in *Second Life* then why use it with teachers when they can’t use it for their own teaching?
• Students with disabilities cannot access virtual worlds.
• Virtual worlds contribute to the ‘digital divide’ by creating barriers to students from equity groups.
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**Myth:** Second Life is really expensive

There are two different account types in Second Life. A premium account costs $9.95 a month (or $22.50 quarterly or $72.00 annually). Premium accounts enjoy the full benefits of SL, including being able to buy/own land and receiving a weekly stipend. A L$1250 "signup bonus" is given on first login to premium accounts and the weekly stipend is L$500. Land ownership is based on a tier system: the amount you pay to hold that land depends on the amount of land you own and what tier you are in.

**Sign Up Today!**

Join Second Life and become part of the Internet's largest user-created, 3D virtual community.

- Connect with friends.
- Meet new people with voice and text chat.
- Explore thousands of unique 3D locations.
- Create and design your own look.

Membership is FREE!
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“...learned to work in a foreign setting with Sue’s help and students showed they were even more capable of adapting to in-world learning.”

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