Should we teach an old game new tricks?

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**Background**

**History**
- Running since 1993
- Run at UNSW, Macquarie, Deakin, Charles Sturt, George Washington, Uni Texas at Austin
- Deakin is current home

**Status quo**
- Duration 2-3 weeks
- WWW walled garden
- All interaction online
- Text-based, low-bandwidth
Problems?

- Visually tired
- Basic looking
- Lack of social media and ‘modern’ applications
- Some instabilities with IE
- Need to remain non-public
- Chat functionality
Chat crashes

- Source of most complaints
- Chat more necessary now than ever
  - Security
  - Real world
But they still love it

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Excellent (%)</th>
<th>Good (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How would you rate the MEPS as a learning experience?</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEPS compared to traditional assignments?</td>
<td>Much better = 80%</td>
<td>Better = 20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did MEPS contribute to your overall understanding?</td>
<td>Yes = 97.5%</td>
<td>No = 0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Was your overall experience positive?</td>
<td>Yes = 97.5%</td>
<td>No = 2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would you recommend the MEPS to others?</td>
<td>Yes = 100%</td>
<td>No = 0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

T2 2011. n = 41
Tweaking the chat

- Social media tools need to be added to the interface
- The current interface is adequate to the task
- The Sim interface needs to be improved

Legend:
- T1 2011
- T2 2011
Findings

- Students accept low ‘bling factor’ ...
- ...if the overall value of the task seems apparent
- Broken tools are more annoying than absent ones
- Reflect the world you simulate!
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Middle East Politics Simulation

Role ID: 
Password: 
Enter Simulation