



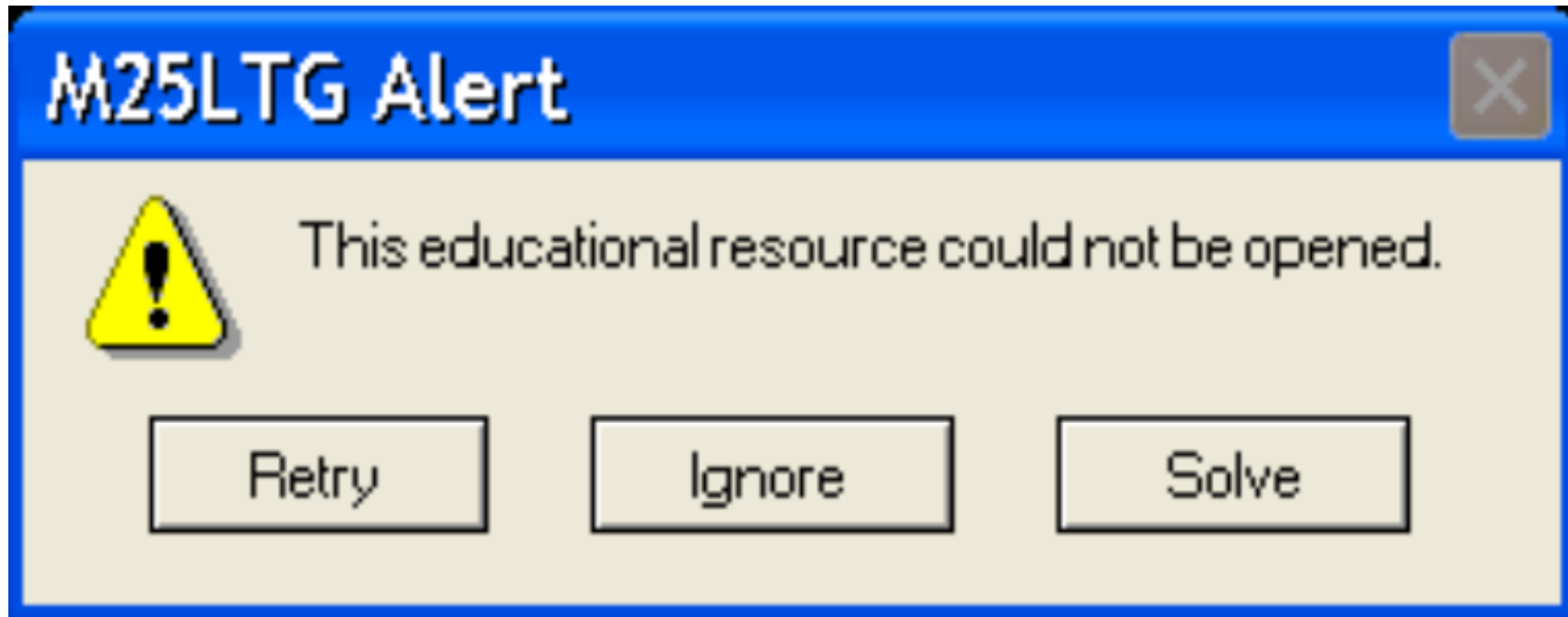
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Havemann, Leo and Bramer, B. and Sherman, S. (2010) This educational resource could not be opened. In: M25 Learning Technology Group, March 2010, London, UK. (Unpublished)

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An M25 Learning Technology Group Discussion on Barriers to Opening Educational Resources

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Benefits of OER

- Administrative convenience
- Free access to quality(?) material
- Ability to re-use/re-purpose existing materials
- Share ideas/practice
- Build “knowledge communities”
- Showcase good practice, enhancing visibility and reputation (of an individual & institutional)

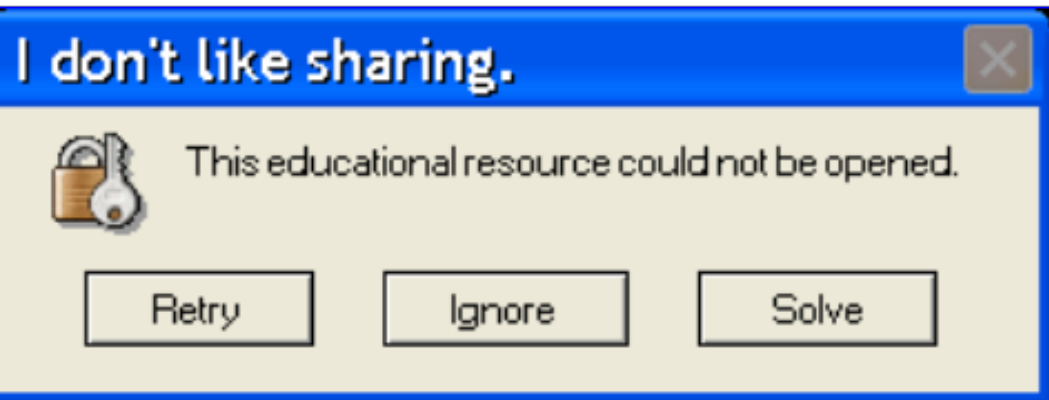
Theoretically...

Reality Check!

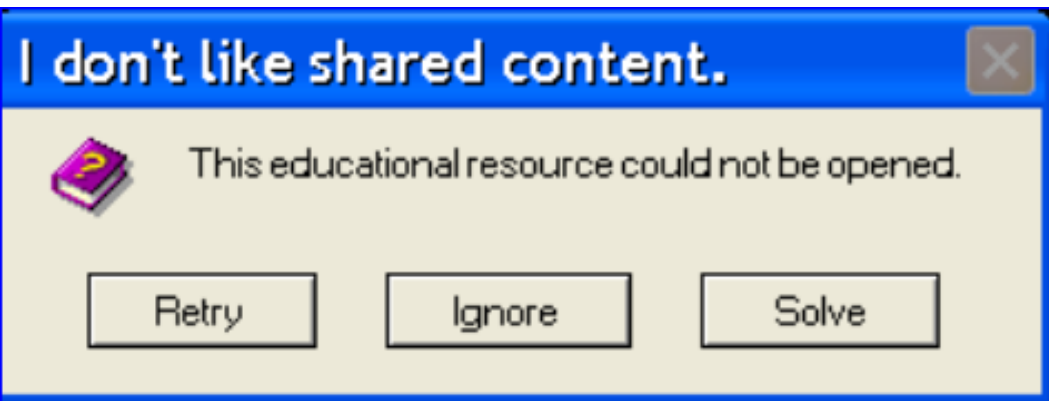


In practice we are not seeing this taken up by academics - or those in other educational roles.

To discuss...



What prevents people wanting to share?



What prevents the use of other people's content?

...and what are the solutions?

This educational resource could not be opened

Feedback from group discussion
@ the M25LTG Meeting, March 2010

Question 1: What are the barriers that stop people wanting to share - and how can we overcome them?

BARRIERS

- Ego (institutional ownership - vs personal?)
- IPR (questions over who owns it)
- Technical competence - not sure how to go about it
- Time constraints
- What's in it for me?
- Future use, potential mis-use concerns - where will it end up?
- Lecture capture - lack of confidence - fear of it not being 'up to scratch', or of good enough technical quality, to be shared
- Not wanting others to benefit from your hard work
- Using copyright material without permission - not wanting this exposed

SOLUTIONS

- Rewards and recognition
- Institutional credit
- Support and help
- Successful examples
- Tracking usage
- Feedback/rating system
- Preparing / pre-warning lecturers of plans to share content (by default? opt-out model?)
- Changing paradigm / attitude / culture
- Examples of sharing that have led to increased fame / enhanced reputation for the lecturer or institution
- More people doing it
- More money / incentives

Question 2: What are the barriers to making use of other people's content and how can we overcome them?

BARRIERS

- Quality issues - "a lot of it is crap"
- Time - to search and identify appropriate repository/quality resources and then adapt.
- Technical problems - e.g. download and in wrong format
- Habit - a) people don't know there are all these repositories; b) past experiences; c) people use Google
- Culture - "sharing is not something we do"
- Division between academics and information/e-learning specialists
- Some people just prefer to develop material themselves.
- Inconsistency of look and feel if cobbling together "borrowed" materials
- Fear of using copyright material

SOLUTIONS

- Use resources which are short/small and easy to find, and which you cannot easily produce yourself - e.g. movie, flash learning object
- Make common resources (e.g. referencing) which can be re-used
- Search/discovery - making it easier for someone to find what they need
- Skills development
- Format must not matter
- More e-learners! more learning technologists!
- Share good practices, develop more opportunities to share practice and the habit of sharing
- Develop a cultural shift
- Use Google - 'cos it works!
- Write it yourself since you know your learners!

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