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When Learning Becomes Another Distraction

Our lives move at an ever-quicker pace and we rely on our communication devices to keep in touch, to plan our travel arrangements and to guide us quickly to our next meeting.

Mobile phones are phenomenally powerful computers and almost all desktop applications have been ported across to the major platforms, so we can work whilst we are away from our desk.

We can read books and stunningly-transferred digital versions of magazines and there is an increasing market for study materials to be similarly transferred.

My worry, and the subject of my talk, is that we run the danger of taking 'bite-size learning' to such extremes that the act of learning becomes a distraction and the time required to reflect effectively on our study disappears altogether.

In my talk I will look at ways in which we can address this problem, but also look at what might happen if we let this 'system' naturally evolve.

Biography

Garfield Southall is the Associate Dean for the Faculty of Science and Engineering at the Thornton Science Park, University of Chester - and institution he has served for over 30 years.

His main interests are mobile computing, programming languages and emergent behaviour. His main area of research is in the modelling of signalling systems involved in the natural processes of bone remodelling. Outside of work he enjoys trail running, road cycling and music.