

Marc Eisenstadt
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Duration: 00:03:00

"I would guess the overview story is that, we rode the wave of the phenomenal developments of the mid Nineties to create a new, a new institution, and that, that dovetailed with the interests that I had had in cognitive science, human-computer interaction, artificial intelligence, and the stuff Tom Vincent was doing with the multimedia enabling technologies. And we brought in, we brought in some other people, and, you know, we had Paul Bacsich's group in there with the stuff they were doing with FirstClass virtual classrooms and satellite technologies. And, we had some, roughly thirty of us. We brought in, we set up some visitor desk space, we brought in editors and designers and BBC producers on, on a intern-like basis, programmers from, from ACS. And, we had just a range of projects that kind of took off from there. Some of the schemes worked, some of them didn't. The working environment was not especially conducive for people in the open-plan area, because it was a bit noisy, so we had a couple of experiments, kind of refurbishing it. What we did build was a 'killer' [spectacular] showcase, a showcase area. We got some, a fantastic donation of, of the latest and greatest, glitzy stuff from Apple computers, so Apple provided the kind of front-of-house stuff that everybody saw, big screens and, nice environments and so on. We, we had a, a custom-built showcase. Tom and I went off and bought a couple of big, flat screen monitors which were new at the time, big plasma displays that we could use in our front-of-house seminars and demos, we had a seminar area. And, we had, the back-of-house infrastructure was donated to us by Sun Microsystems, they provided all the, all the servers, because of some, there were some cool projects we were doing at the time that they really liked and they, they helped to underwrite that. And, we were working with Java and things that were all new, new at the time, and they, they were quite pleased with that. So, we had this environment we were building called KMi Stadium, which was designed to be the massive scale virtual, virtual presentation and classroom environment. And, Sun was really taken with that. And, that was the hub of, of this environment."