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Designing a New Digital Learning Environment: The Wisconsin Story

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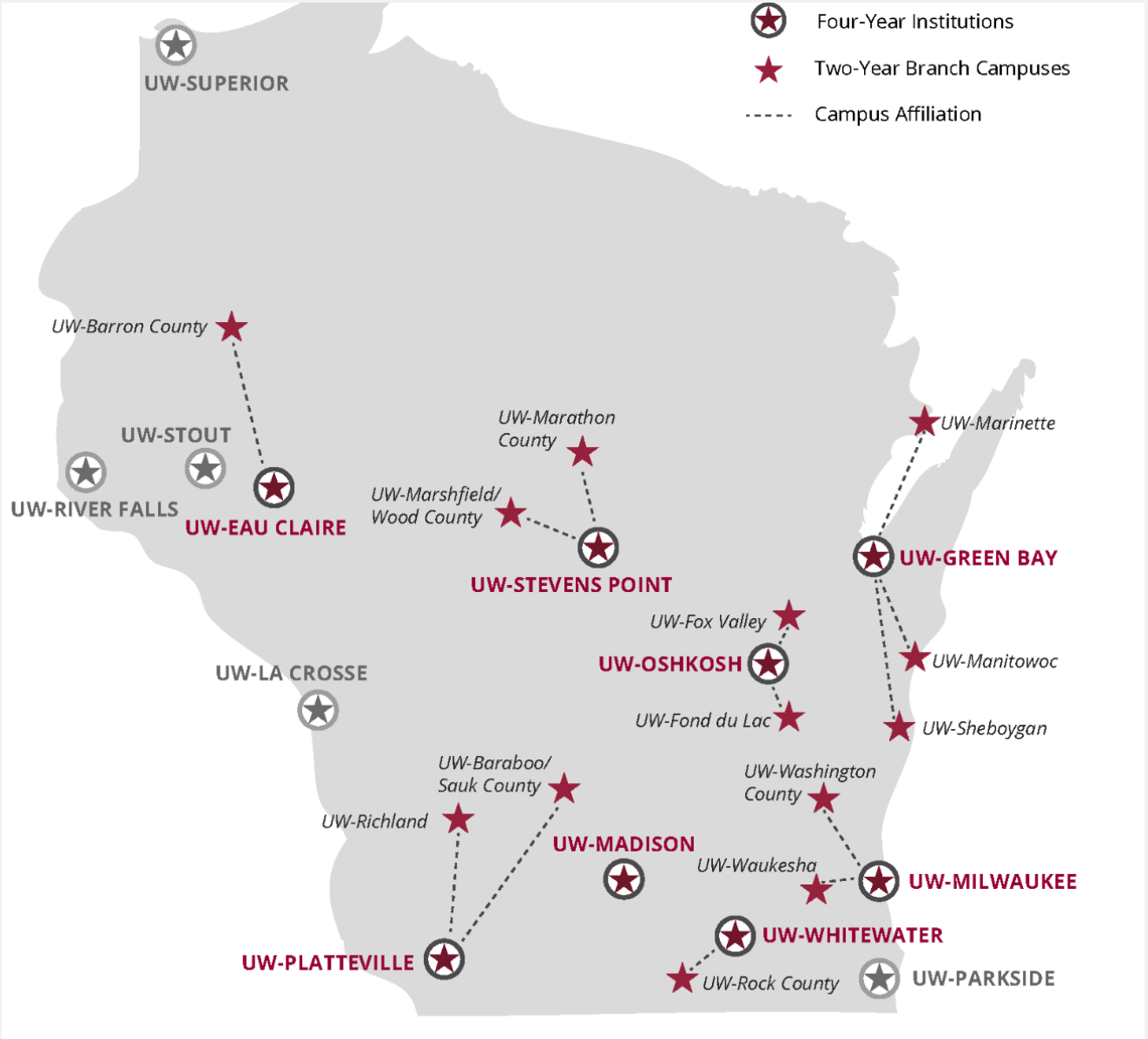
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM

UWS Fast Facts

- **Enrollment:** ~165,000
- **Faculty & Staff:** 40,570
- **Institutions:** 13 universities across 26 campuses
- **Degrees Awarded:** 37,000 annually



Drivers for Disruption

- Learning Management System (LMS) contract expiring
- UW System Strategy: 2020FWD https://www.wisconsin.edu/2020FWD/
- Industry's "opening" of technologies
- Growth of higher education technology standards https://imsglobal.org
- Driven as an academic, not a technology, initiatives.

Extensive Stakeholder Engagement

- UWS Learning Technology Roadmap (2014)
- UWS Needs Analysis (LENA 2015)
- UWS Requirements Gathering (LERG 2016)

Learn more about our stakeholder engagement activities here:
https://www.wisconsin.edu/dle/about/history/

The Digital Learning Environment (DLE) Vision

DLE Request for Proposal (RFP 2017)
DLE Implementation (2018-2020)

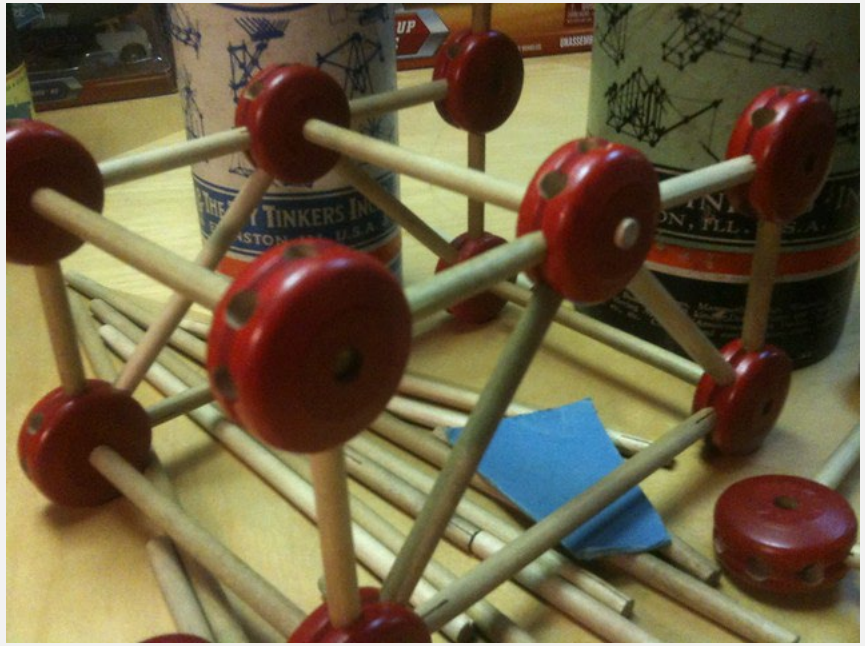
Learn more: https://wisconsin.edu/dle

Five Key Needs Identified

- Accessibility
- Provides access to data
- Encourage collaboration
- Technically Interoperable
- Student-centered

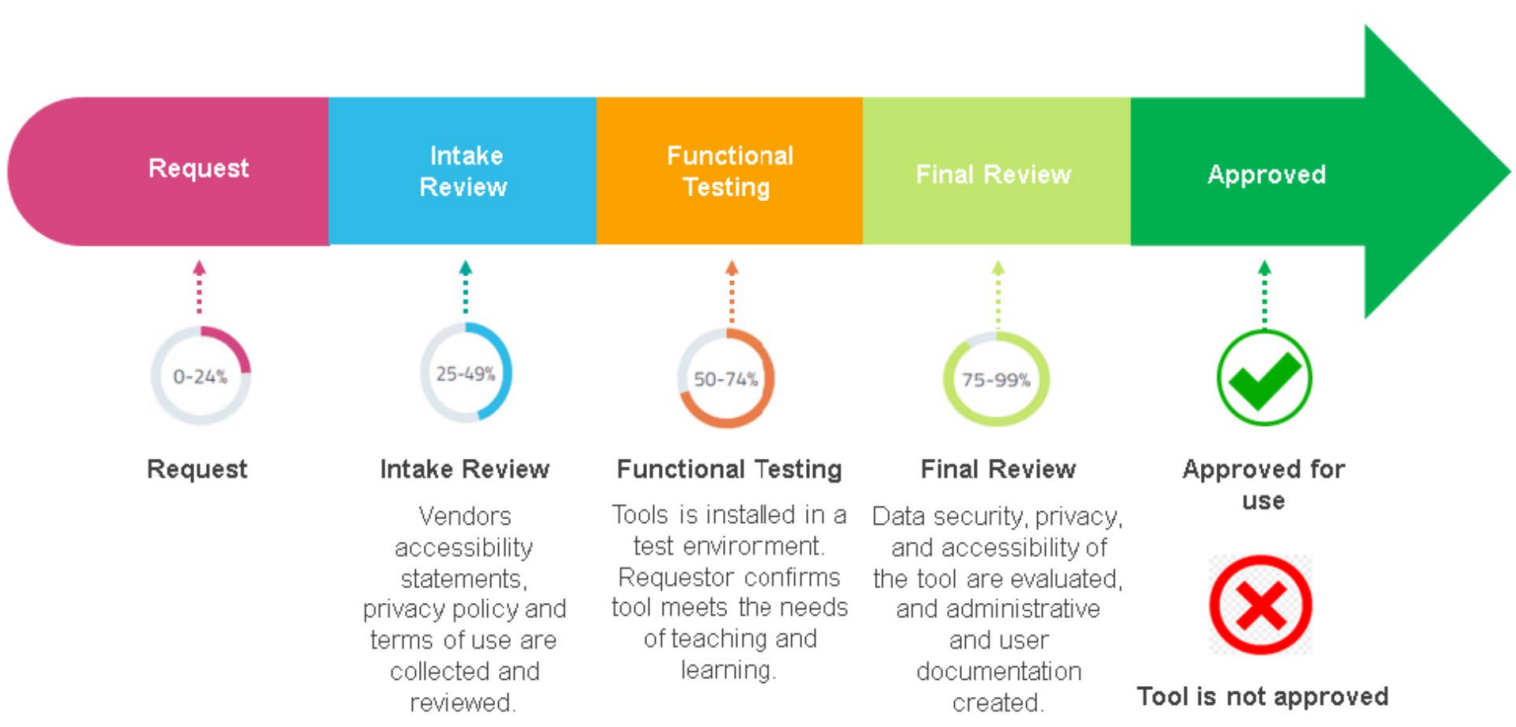
Historic Challenges of Tool Integration

- Accessibility
- Customization
- Student Data Privacy
- Platform Security



IMS TrustEd Apps Rubric: http://www.imsglobal.org/activity/trustedapps/rubric

UWS Solution: Third-Party Tool Request Process



See: https://www.wisconsin.edu/dle/governance/

- Transparent for users, administrators, and vendors
- Identify, test & document integration capabilities
- Create standard, governed, processes for integration
- Enable institutions access to their data with minimal overhead
- Focus on vetting technology, not on pedagogy

Benefits of the DLE

"Designing a Digital Learning Environment for the University of Wisconsin System" (Educause Review article) https://tinyurl.com/yxlfanez

BENEFITS REALIZED

- Future Proof – COVID pivot
- Consistent student experience – single view of courses across all institutions
- Minimal customizations are supported
- Flexibility built in to accommodate institution needs
- Accessible and supports all instructional modes
- Non-matriculated students can access the DLE
- Tight, standard, and highly-secure student information system and instructional tool integrations
- Seamless access by all institutions
- Supports new and emerging curricular models
- Efficiency of "once and done"
- Change is formally and transparently managed
- Institutional access to data!

Impact of the DLE

improve student engagement

innovative practices in teaching and learning

data-informed instruction

provides reporting capabilities

reduces barriers to access

learning technology environment is "future-resilient"

nimble and adaptive UWS institutions

Questions?