TOWARD AN OPEN ECOSYSTEM

CORE COMMITMENTS FOR SHARED SUCCESS

The purpose of this framework is to articulate a set of shared values and principles to govern stewardship of the digital learning ecosystem. Ecosystem stewards, providers, and participants (which may include shared services providers, employer associations, higher education associations, higher education institutions, technology platforms, and governments) hold the following principles in common:

PUBLIC GOOD

Ecosystem stewards are committed to maintaining access, choice and flexibility for the public good.

IDENTITY AND PRIVACY

Ecosystem stewards facilitate federated authentication principles allowing simple and broad identity management for all users. The imperative of data security and privacy must be respected, while supporting appropriately aggregated data that enables better insights and supports decision-making.

OPENNESS

An open ecosystem supports educational resources that enable all types of learning, collaboration between coalitions of tech platforms, and open APIs to enable tech platform integration. Where possible, ecosystem stewards avoid closed ecosystems and support the development of shared, open standards.

COMPETITION

Open competition amongst technology providers of all sizes enables innovation, lower prices, increased efficiency, variety of offerings, and user-driven choice. In turn, this enables greater uptake and responsiveness. Ecosystem stewards avoid monopolies wherever possible.

RESEARCH

Ecosystem stewards understand and value the opportunities for research implied by the framework and build with purpose to enhance this potential.

COLLABORATION

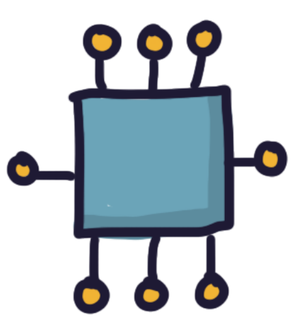
Ecosystem stewards work together toward collective goals and understand the value in minimizing overlap.

DATA-INFORMED DECISION-MAKING

Ecosystem stewards balance the sovereignty of personal data with the need for aggregate data for system-level decision making. Ecosystem stewards use data and evidence to lead in user experience and user centered design and broader ethical, design and development principles.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Mindful of the digital divide, ecosystem stewards prioritize diversity and inclusion, including consultation with, and representation of, the full range of ecosystem stakeholders. Ecosystem participants will be encouraged to ensure diversity and inclusion throughout the entire ecosystem.



INTEGRATION

Integration enhances efficiency, flexibility, and choice. Ecosystem stewards drive comprehensive integration of platforms and systems using shared application programming interfaces (APIs) to permit users to exercise choice through custom assembly of platforms and applications to suit their specific contexts.

LEARNING-DRIVEN FOCUS

Ecosystem stewards focus on learners' long-term needs. Continued focus on the good of the entire ecosystem (rather than one sector or platform) benefits all parties.

New technologies, platforms and services emerge every day. This document articulates principles for a healthy, diverse, open ecosystem that benefits end users. The parties undersigned commit to lead by example and exercise practices that prioritize openness, growth, and healthy competition in the market, with the shared understanding that innovation in this space is continuous.

ecampus Ontario

Ontario

CC BY SA

Attribution: This document was inspired, in part, by the CARE Framework for OER Stewardship (https://careframework.org/)