THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
informatics

Activity in Context – Planning to Keep Learners ‘in the Zone’ for Scenario-based Mixed-Initiative Training

Austin Tate <a.tate@ed.ac.uk>
MSc in e-Learning Dissertation School of Education, 2012

constrain the world situation and activities possible
select relevant tasks and events
inject events to situation to keep learners ‘in the zone’
induce appropriate learner **‘activity in context’**

A number of threads have been brought together in this work:

- **to study the cognitive psychological foundations for situated social learning;**
- **to identify effective learning methods relevant to mixed-initiative interaction between agents;**
- **to describe the relationship between cognitive psychological activity models and an Artificial Intelligence research-informed conceptual model of activity;**
- **to utilise Artificial Intelligence Planning technology;**
- **to employ automated Non-Player Characters (NPC) tutors;**
- **to provide a methodology for how the concepts identified could be utilised in a training-orientated “I-Zone” – a virtual space for intelligent scenario-based interaction; and**
- **to create, document and demonstrate a resource base for experimentation and potential re-use on projects in this area.**