

IDEA10
Technology in Education Open Forum

**INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES
ON INTEROPERABILITY:
AN AUSTRALIAN RESPONSE**

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Education in Australia

The business of education

- Learning and teaching
- Research
- Administration

Many thousands of institutions

- Schools: government and non-government
- VET providers: TAFEs, RTOs
- Universities

ICT offers major opportunities

- Institutions are making major investments

Institutions Are Not Islands

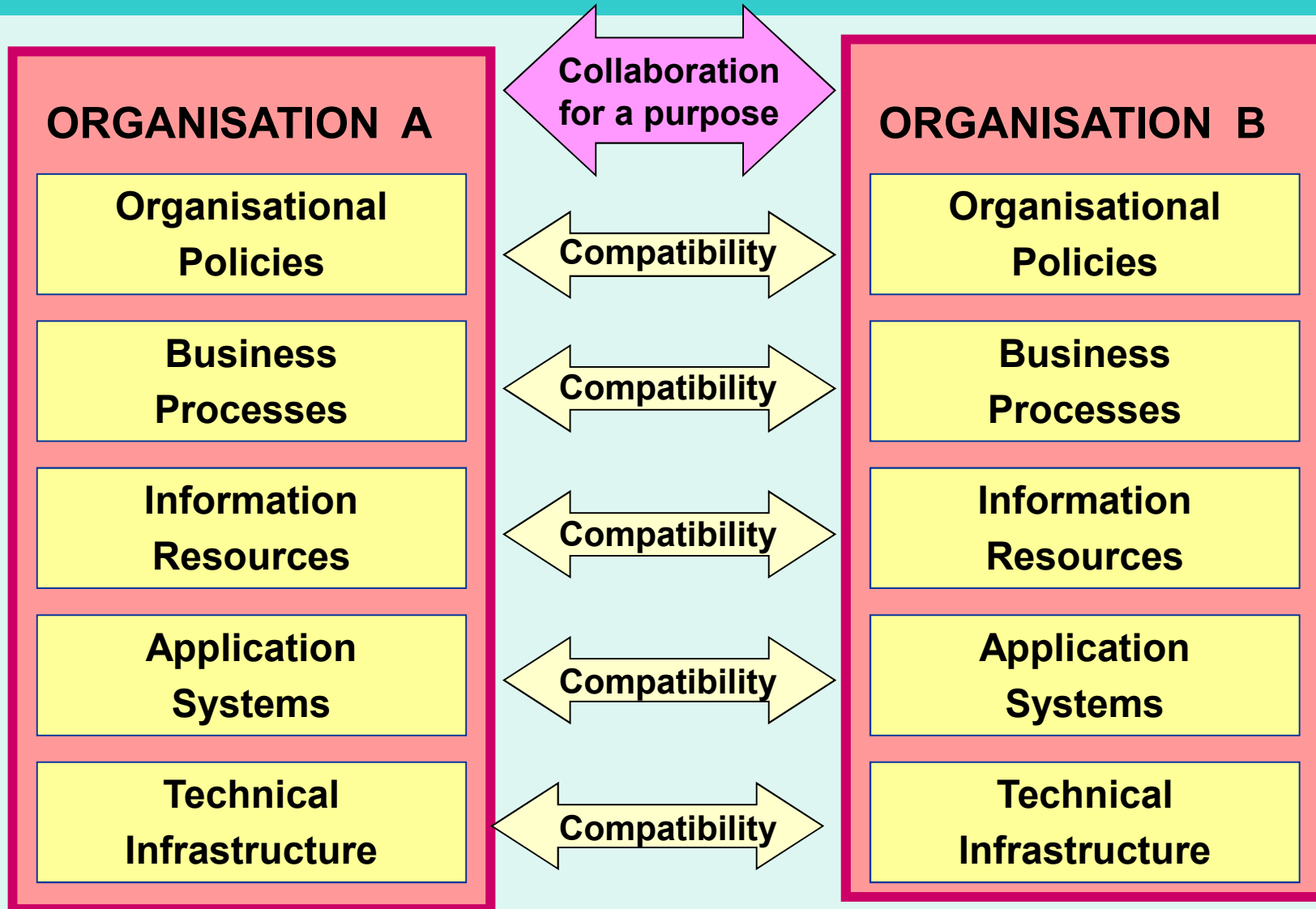
- New ways of learning, teaching and researching
 - Access to off campus people
 - Access to off campus digital resources
- Need to share expensive resources
- Students move between institutions
- National curriculum
- Working with qualifications and quality agencies
- National requirements for reporting & accountability
- Blurring of sectoral boundaries
- New forms of national and international partnerships
- Other drivers

Collaboration requires Interoperability

Ability to operate together:

- People
- Organisations
- Technology based systems

Interoperability requires Compatibility



Connecting & Sharing

Australian education organisations need to connect and share:

- Communication and collaboration services
- Access to virtual environments
- Content for learning and teaching
- Research information and data
- Student related data, including assessment data
- Reporting data for accountability and quality purposes
- Access to expensive research equipment
- ICT infrastructure
- Identities for access to services and resources

A Balancing Act

Innovation ~ Safety & Security

Trust ~ Control

Local Flexibility ~ Standardisation

Agile Pilots ~ Carefully Designed Systems

Loose Communities ~ Formal Governance

Bottom Up ~ Top Down

Enabling National Collaboration

1. Engagement in global standards development
2. Development of Australian solutions and guidelines
3. Promotion of commitment by organisations
4. Development of organisational capabilities
5. Establishment of shared infrastructure
6. National co-ordination and support

Some Effective National Programs

Higher Education

- E-Research: Platforms for Collaboration
- Australian Access Federation
- AARNet

VET

- E-Standards for Training Program
- Flexible Learning Toolboxes
- LORN

Schools

- The Learning Federation
- SIF Australia

More to be Done Nationally

Sharing of Digital Content

- Policies about sharing
- Content standards
- New infrastructure for sharing

Exchange of Student and Administrative data

- Understand and rationalise data flows
- Policies about exchanging data
- Data standards
- Effective models for Unique Student Identifiers
- New infrastructure for exchanging data

21st Century Learning & Teaching

- Innovation & experiments
- “Sand pit” facilities

And other work...

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Thank you