



PRESS RELEASE

—For Immediate Distribution—

NMC releases Horizon Report focused on Emerging Technologies in Australia & New Zealand

Today the New Media Consortium (NMC) released the first in a new series of regional and sector-based Horizon Reports with the *Horizon Report: 2008 Australia-New Zealand*. The new series is a product of the New Media Consortium's Horizon Project, an ongoing research project that seeks to identify and describe emerging technologies likely to have a large impact on teaching, learning, or creative expression within higher education around the globe. This volume is the first in a new series of regional reports, and examines emerging technologies as they appear in and affect higher education in Australia and New Zealand in particular.

As with the global edition of the Horizon Report released each January in collaboration with EDUCAUSE, the Australia-New Zealand report describes six areas of emerging technology that will have significant impact in education within three adoption horizons over the next one to five years. "Over the six years the Horizon Report has been published, technology has taken some interesting turns," noted Larry Johnson, Chief Executive Officer of the NMC. "Campus leaders like the format of the report, and its focus on relevance and examples. Practitioners find it a valuable way to stay in front of the curve." More than 100,000 copies of the global edition of the 2008 Horizon Report were distributed in print and electronically.

"One of the reasons the Horizon Report is so valuable is that it doesn't just talk about technology—it talks about how it is used to enhance teaching, learning, research, and the creative arts," according to Phil Long, Director of the Center for Educational Innovation and Technology at the University of Queensland, and chair of the Advisory Board which contributed the content for the report. "Putting the technology in an educational context and providing a number of examples really helps people understand why these particular technologies are so exciting. Having a local edition of the report makes it even more valuable by placing these technologies in the context in which we work."

In defining the six selected areas—*Virtual Worlds & Other Immersive Digital Environments*; *Cloud-Based Applications*; *Geolocation*; *Alternative Input Devices*; *Deep Tagging*; and *Next-Generation Mobile*—the project drew on an ongoing discussion among knowledgeable leaders and practitioners in Australia and New Zealand business, industry, and education, as well as published resources, current research and practice, and the expertise of the NMC community itself. The Horizon Project's Australia-New Zealand Advisory Board probed current trends and challenges in post compulsory education as they uniquely are expressed in Australia and New Zealand, explored possible topics for the Report, and over several rounds of rankings and dialog, selected the final technologies.

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To create the *Horizon Report: 2008 Australia-New Zealand Edition*, the 45 members of the Horizon.au Advisory Board, as it was informally called, reviewed and discussed relevant research, read dozens of articles, papers, press clippings, and interviews as a prelude to discussing how each of the candidate technologies might be especially relevant to teaching, learning, research, or creative expression. Those that emerged, along with the key challenges and trends that are driving their relevance, are the focus of the report.

The 32-page report is free, and has been released with a Creative Commons license to facilitate its use, easy duplication, and broad distribution.

The *Horizon Report: 2008 Australia-New Zealand Edition* (304K, 32 pp) is available now on the NMC website at: <http://www.nmc.org/pdf/2008-Horizon-Report-ANZ.pdf>

About the NMC

The New Media Consortium (NMC) is an internationally focused 501(c)3 not-for-profit consortium of nearly 300 learning-focused organizations dedicated to the exploration and use of new media and new technologies. NMC member institutions are found in almost every state in the United States, across Canada, and in Europe, Asia, and Australia. Among the membership are an elite list of the most highly regarded colleges and universities in the world, as well as a growing list of innovative museums, research centers, foundations, and forward-thinking companies.

The consortium serves as a catalyst for the development of new applications of technology to support learning and creative expression, and sponsors programs and activities designed to stimulate innovation, encourage collaboration, and recognize excellence among its member institutions. Through its many projects, its comprehensive website, and its series of international conferences, the NMC stimulates dialog and understanding through the exploration of promising ideas, technologies, and applications.

As a central part of its mission, the NMC encourages and supports innovation in the pursuit of effective collaboration, especially in the activities and projects in which it plays a leadership role. For more information on the NMC, visit its website at www.nmc.org.

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