Stratenotes

Say *Hello* to the Stratepedia Blog
& Get to Know Collaborative Technology

*Aaron Sumner and Amber Hoffman
KU-CRL*

Hello, the Stratepedia blog, started with relatively small ambitions but has grown into a new source for technology-related news that may affect the Strategic Instruction Model and the work of the Center for Research on Learning.

Hello's roots began in January 2007, when we needed a quick way to let people know what was happening during our unfortunately rocky transition from ContentEnhancement.org to Stratepedia.org. We made it through that transition and continued to use the blog as a means to notify people about software updates and coming service interruptions. However, such events are rare, and the blog sat idle for weeks at a time. Meanwhile, we realized we were finding new tools and concepts that might not have an immediate place in other Center publications but would be of interest to many who work with us. Thus, *Hello* evolved into a new publication of sorts. But instead of a traditional (paper or e-mail) newsletter, *Hello* is published using the concept and technology of blogging.

Our goal with *Hello* is to make new technology less scary—whether that be something we've developed or a Web site or product we've stumbled upon and now use ourselves. We'd even like to get you thinking about *why* emerging technologies are important and *how* we can put them to use in support of SIM—and once that interest has been piqued, we want to include you in the discussion.

What You'll Find in *Hello*

You'll find four general types of articles in *Hello*:

News about Stratepedia stuff: If we know one of our services will be unavailable for some duration of time, we'll let you know through *Hello*. If you're planning to use Depot for some scheduled professional development, check the blog and avoid surprises!

Tutorials about Stratepedia tools and other technology: We'd love to meet with everyone face-to-face to show off our work and help you use it as effectively as possible, but travel budgets and time constraints keep that from being a reality. These tutorials are the next best thing—not only

can you become a Stratepedia pro on your own time, but you also might learn a thing or two about working with video, improving the quality of handouts, or enhancing collaborative efforts.

Links to useful software and Web sites: We're always on the lookout for tools that make our work easier. When we find utilities to make our presentations more professional, Web sites that make delivering our message easier, or nifty collaboration tools, we don't keep them to ourselves—we tell you all about our experiences with them in *Hello*.

Big picture discussions: Technology has had a significant role in the Center's work and perhaps an even larger one in our daily lives. In many ways, it continues to redefine that work, and we want to be ready when that happens. How has the Web changed publishing and dissemination? What is the role of social networking in coaching and professional development? We ask these questions with the hope that you'll share your ideas and concerns about where technology is heading and how that affects the work we do.

SIM
Strategic Instruction Model™

Following Along with *Hello*

Hello isn't like a traditional newsletter or magazine—it's updated frequently (sometimes several times a day) and shares comments much more regularly than they'd be shared if we had a "Letters to the Editor" section. However, visiting a Web site every day or week to check on new content is not a productive use of one's time. Luckily, Web 2.0 provides us new ways to keep up with our favorite content providers.

The best way to keep up with new content on *Hello* is to subscribe to our RSS feed (see the box on page 3 to learn more about RSS and why we love it). Links to new articles will generally arrive in your reader within an hour of us posting them to the blog.

If you're not quite ready for RSS, you can keep up-to-date through e-mail. Posts are sent in digest form (once daily) directly to your inbox, so you won't be overwhelmed with new stuff from us. Of course, you can unsubscribe at any time.

Passive Reading Not Allowed!

The Web is no longer a passive, read-only medium. Every day, new sites like YouTube, Flickr, and Wikipedia crop up, allowing people to share video, images, and ideas. In fact, we rely on your comments and suggestions to make our blog a more useful resource for everyone.

The quickest, easiest way to get involved is to leave your comments. No registration is required—just enter your name, e-mail address (not shared with anybody!), and your thoughts. Blogs are a great way to get conversations started, and we hope we'll touch on a subject about which you've got much to say. Don't be shy about sharing your thoughts or asking us questions! Chances are

Our goal with Hello *is to make new technology less scary*

if we confused you, we probably confused at least a few dozen others. This is your chance to help us make what we do friendlier to everyone and to make your voice heard by us the 362 days of the year we're not presenting at a conference.

Got a lot to say about collaborative technology in general or the Stratepedia tools in particular? Come on board as a *Hello* contributor. David Gnojek, the Center's graphic designer, did. He now shares tips on making your presentations and printouts look more polished and professional. What kinds of ideas do you have to share with the Center and the SIM Network? Or, if your

interests lie outside of *Hello's* scope, why not start a blog of your own? Services like Blogger and WordPress.com are free and easy to set up and use. Within minutes, your blog will be ready to collect your thoughts and share them with the world. It's a great way to promote yourself (not to mention SIM)!

Next Steps

Your turn: Go check out *Hello* at http://hello.stratepedia.org/. Read an article or two, and let us know what you think by leaving comments. Be sure to subscribe before you leave, so you can keep up with new articles!

RSS? Web 2.0? What's that?

Sometimes the vocabulary associated with the Internet
can change as rapidly as the information itself.
Here are a few keywords you might see.

BLOG

A **blog** is a high-tech version of a journal. Anyone can document important events or share information pertaining to topics such as technology, cooking, children, and more.

RSS

RSS stands for Really Simple Syndication, a delivery mechanism for Web-based content. Instead of visiting several Web sites to view updated information, you can direct the information to one, personalized site or application.

WEB 2.0

Web 2.0 is a fancy buzz word for the tools and concepts developed to help us all collaborate online. The Internet is far from being stagnant, and this new "version" is referring to the fact that not only are you taking information from the Web, you're now reciprocating your knowledge through tools such as wikis and blogs.

Tentative Conference Schedule

July 15-18, 2008 • Kansas City Marriott, Country Club Plaza• 4445 Main, Kansas City, Mo.

Tuesday, July 15
6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Registration & Refreshments

Wednesday, July 16
8 a.m.-8:30 a.m.
Registration

8:30 a.m.-9:15 a.m.
Welcome & Conference Overview

9:15 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
Keynote Address: Annemarie Palincsar

10:45 a.m.-11:45 a.m.
Breakout Sessions

11:45 a.m.-1 p.m.
Lunch (on your own)

1 p.m.-2 p.m.
Poster Session

1 p.m.-4:45 p.m.
Breakout Sessions

5 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
Social & (Non)Talent Show

Thursday, July 17
7:30 a.m.-8 a.m.
Registration

8 a.m.-8:30 a.m.
Welcome

8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.
Keynote Address: Michael Fullan

9:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
Breakout Sessions

12:15 p.m.-1:15 p.m.
Lunch (on your own)

1:15 p.m.-5 p.m.
Breakout Sessions

5 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
Cash Bar

6:30 p.m.-8 p.m.
30th Anniversary Banquet

Friday, July 18
8 a.m.-9:15 a.m.
Kaleidoscope Session

9:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m.
Breakout Sessions

Noon-12:30 p.m.
Closing Session

*More calendar,
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Pearl anniversary opportunities

The 2008 International SIM Conference promises to be the best yet, with two terrific keynote speakers and a three-day celebration of the Center's 30th anniversary. Use the form below to volunteer to bring SIM or CRL memorabilia for a historical display, to model your favorite professional development costume or prop in a SIM fashion show, or to take the stage for a (non)talent show.

❑   I will bring the following items to contribute to the historical display:

_____

_____

_____

_____

❑   I want to participate in the SIM fashion show.

My costume or prop: _____

How I use my costume or prop in SIM professional development: _____

_____

_____

_____

❑   Yes, sign me up for the (non)talent show! Brief description of planned skit or performance: _____

_____

_____

_____

Complete and mail **as soon as possible** to Mona Tipton, KU-CRL,
1122 West Campus Road, Room 521, Lawrence, KS 66044
or e-mail to Mona at mkatz@ku.edu.

KU-CRL Pearl Anniversary SIM Conference

July 16-18, 2008 • Kansas City Marriott, Country Club Plaza
4445 Main, Kansas City, MO

Make your reservations early. Call 816.531.3000 or 800.810.3708
Online reservations: Use the link from the KU-CRL international conference
web page: www.kucrl.org/conferences/sim

Two fabulous keynotes

Annemarie Sullivan Palincsar

LITERACY

Annemarie Sullivan Palincsar is the Jean and Charles Walgreen Jr. Chair of Reading and Literacy and Arthur F. Thurnau Professor at the University of Michigan. Her research focuses on the design of learning environments that support self-regulation in learning activity, especially for children who experience difficulty learning in school.

Annemarie completed her doctorate at the Center for the Study of Reading at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. She has served as a member of a number of national panels and organizations and is co-editor of the journal *Cognition and Instruction* and is a member of the National Academy of Education.

Among her recent publications is *Informed Choices for Struggling Adolescent Readers: A Research-Based Guide to Instructional Programs and Practices* (2007, Deshler, Palincsar, Biancarosa, & Nair). This book reviews many issues, including myths and misperceptions, associated with adolescent literacy and describes the instructional approach and research base of 48 currently available programs.

Michael Fullan

EDUCATIONAL CHANGE

Michael Fullan, professor emeritus of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto, is an international leader on educational change. He has developed a number of partnerships designed to bring about major school improvements and is engaged in training, consulting, and evaluation of change projects around the world.

Michael and his colleagues have written annotated summaries of what they consider to be the 20 best books on leadership and change, and they have named 10 top web sites for tools, instruments, and ideas for improving change leadership. Both the annotations and the web links are available at www.michaelfullan.ca.

Michael now serves as special advisor to the Premier and Minister of Education in Ontario. His book, *Leading in a Culture of Change,* was awarded the 2002 Book of the Year Award by the National Staff Development Council. In *Turnaround Leadership,* he shows how leaders can convert even the worst situation into an opportunity to rejuvenate their schools.

Subscribe to SIMTRAINER-L
e-mail jtollefson@ku.edu

SIMville Sign-On
User name: Network
Password: strategic

2008 International SIM Conference

Preconference Registration Form

July 14-15, 2008 • Kansas City Marriott, Country Club Plaza • Kansas City, Mo.

Name: _____

Work Address: _____

_____ Work Phone: _____

Home Address: _____

_____ Home Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____ Preferred mailing address: ❑ home ❑ work

Summer E-mail Address: _____
We e-mail **important conference information** unless you prefer land mail: ❑ e-mail is fine ❑ postal service

Emergency contact name and phone number: _____

❑ **I will bring my own laptop computer to the preconference.**

_____

❑ **Applying an RTI Framework to Adolescent-Age Students: $110**　　　　　　　$ _____
　　For registrations postmarked after April 15, 2008, add **$10** late fee.　　$ _____

❑ **Building Proficiency in Content Enhancement with GIST: The Basics: $150**　$ _____
　　For registrations postmarked after April 15, 2008, add **$10** late fee.　　$ _____

❑ **CLC Development in Your Future: $75**　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　$ _____
　　For registrations postmarked after April 15, 2008, add **$10** late fee.　　$ _____

❑ **Instructional Coaching: $105**　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　$ _____
　　For registrations postmarked after April 15, 2008, add **$10** late fee.　　$ _____

❑ **Partnership Learning: An Update: $95**　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　$ _____
　　For registrations postmarked after April 15, 2008, add **$10** late fee.　　$ _____

❑ **Strategic Tutoring Staff Development CDs: $100**　　　　　　　　　　　$ _____
　　For registrations postmarked after April 15, 2008, add **$10** late fee.　　$ _____

❑ **Using Community Building and Cooperative Thinking**
　Strategies Multimedia CD Programs: $150　　　　　　　　　　　　　$ _____
　　For registrations postmarked after April 15, 2008, add **$10** late fee.　　$ _____

❑ **Using GIST as a Tool in Presentations: Advanced: $150**　　　　　　　$ _____
　　For registrations postmarked after April 15, 2008, add **$10** late fee.　　$ _____

Total Enclosed: $ _____

❑ **Make check payable to KU-CRL**
OR
❑ **Credit Card # (VISA or MasterCard)**_____ Expiration Date: _____
　　❑ Personal Card　　　❑ Name of Institution:_____
　　Signature Authorization: _____
OR
❑ **PO#:** _____
　　Institution issuing PO: _____

Cancellation Policy: If you cannot attend the preconference session(s), you must **notify KU-CRL by July 2, 2008,** to receive a full refund of your registration fee. Partial refunds may be made if your cancellation is received between July 2 and July 9, 2008. We will be unable to issue any refunds after July 9, 2008.

2008 International SIM Conference

SIM Professional Developer Registration Form

July 16-18, 2008 • Kansas City Marriott, Country Club Plaza • Kansas City, Mo.

Name: _____

Work Address: _____

_____ Work Phone: _____

Home Address: _____

_____ Home Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____ Preferred mailing address: ❑ home ❑ work

Summer E-mail Address: _____

We e-mail **important conference information** unless you prefer land mail: ❑ e-mail is fine   ❑ postal service

Emergency contact name and phone number:_____

How many previous International SIM Conferences have you attended?_____

❑ This is my first International SIM Conference as a professional developer

I give permission for KU-CRL to include my name, address, phone number, and e-mail address in a listing to be distributed to conference participants: ❑ yes   ❑ no

Certified SIM Professional Developer and Apprentices Registration Fee: $225

For registrations postmarked after April 15, 2008, add **$25** late fee.   **Total Enclosed: $ _____**

Non-Professional Developers

We have a limited number of spaces available for individuals who are not certified SIM Professional Developers to attend the conference. The registration fee for non-Professional Developers is **$300**, if registration is received before April 15, 2008. After April 15, a $35 late fee will be assessed. **For registration forms and more information, contact Patty Graner (pgraner@ ku.edu) or Mona Tipton (mkatz@ku.edu).**

❑ **Make check payable to KU-CRL**   OR   ❑ **PO#**_____

    OR   Institute issuing PO: _____

❑ **Credit Card # (VISA or MasterCard)**_____ Expiration Date: _____

    ❑ Personal Card   or   ❑ Name of Institution: _____

Signature Authorization: _____

Mail or fax completed registration to KU-CRL, Joseph R. Pearson Hall, 1122 West Campus Rd., Rm. 517
Lawrence, KS 66045-3101 • Fax: 785.864.5728

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Events & Materials

Your conference registration fee includes the following:
- Refreshments (Tuesday evening)
- Social (Wednesday)
- 30th Anniversary Banquet (Thursday)
- Professional development materials

Refreshments during breaks will include coffee and tea; soda vending machines are available in the hotel.

Hotel & Transportation

See our web site, www.kucrl.org, for more information about the conference, including hotel and transportation details.

INSIDE:

- **Hello, the Stratepedia blog:**
  This new source for technology-related news aims to make technology less scary, page 1.

- **Conference time:**
  Although the international conference is just a few months away, there's still time to register or volunteer to participate in some of this anniversary year's special events, pages 3-7.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

KU LEARNING
CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON
The University of Kansas