



SKILL TRACKER



THE SKILL TRACKER ENTERPRISE TOOLSET DRIVES HIGHER EDUCATION SUCCESS.

THE TECHNOLOGY

It's a cloud based software solution that tracks individuals' competencies and skills during their professional training, and it has the potential to transform how education institutes monitor and record their students' performance.

Skill Tracker records an individual's attainment and sign-off on the key skills required as they progress through the competency based training elements of their studies.

Currently, more than 50% of veterinary science education institutes worldwide use a paper based system to track their students' competencies. It's time consuming, involves significant risk of loss or error and doesn't allow for easy analysis. Assessors are required to manually sign off skills, creating stand-alone documents that are not linked to any resource. Plus auditing records is difficult, as it requires physical, visual inspection.

There is growing pressure in these institutes to move to an online recording process to improve compliance with the accreditation process.

“It's been developed as a higher education, competency-tracking software tool”

The Skill Tracker software solution reduces the risks associated with paper-based achievement recording systems, and improves the student learning experience. It provides convenience, benchmarking and a repository for resources. The software is specifically designed for tracking student competencies and it improves compliance and the audit trail of learner achievement. It enables professional degree granting institutions access to validated skills libraries, improving quality and consistency across the profession.

It's not just Vet Science students that could benefit from Skill Tracker though- the flexibility of the software makes it suitable for other skills based programmes such as Teacher Education and Nursing.

Skill Tracker is built on a general platform "Trackit", which also includes roster capabilities. It's been developed as a higher education, competency-tracking software tool, but it can be applied to any skills based learning platform.

THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The Skill Tracker project has been in the innovation pipeline since 2014. Initially conceived for Veterinary Science Degree students, the Trackit software solution (developed and owned by TPL) was introduced to Massey, as the Vet School needed to move away from the “Red Book” to an online solution to track student competencies and hold online evidence.

The parallels to the Trackit module were quickly evident. Skill Tracker was jointly developed by Massey University Vet School and TPL using the Trackit Engine source code and world-class software development expertise. There have been ongoing bug fixes/changes and enhancements to the product since initial concept development.

“Attached learning resources” is one of the key features of Skill Tracker - this unique feature provides a competitive advantage. Skill Tracker’s flexibility and application has been further conceptualised for the Nursing degree and initial Teacher Education.

During engagement with potential customers, roster management capability (which is also part of the Trackit platform) and app/mobile-friendly features were identified as opportunities for further development. These are now included in the Product Development road map for Skill Tracker.

THE COMMERCIALISATION

The customer value proposition of Skill Tracker was quickly evident during market evaluation with veterinary science degree granting institutes. Significant scale and appetite exists for the Skill Tracker solution. In addition the collective of NZ Vet Nursing schools are looking to move their competency based training management away from a paper system. Nursing Schools and Teacher Education Councils have also expressed an interest in Skill Tracker.

Huge market opportunity exists to develop a track record of individuals’ professional business competencies and attainments that could attach to a business-orientated professional network such as “LinkedIn”.

Massey is driving the commercialisation through a joint venture with TPL. MUSAC has been engaged to provide management and sales and marketing activities with Efinity, (a New Plymouth based software company) providing hosting and service activities. Efinity will undertake completion of stage 2 of the product development plan based on an agreed SLA.

Skill Tracker is positioned as a professional, credible and reliable toolset for higher education success. Conceived from world-class university research, its success relies on establishing its position as a world-class enterprise level, industry tool.

