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Title

"The Digital Breakthrough Board"

Tag Line

"Track your digital journey, one tool at a time!"

Target Behavior // link to Problems from WP3

Educators often express a desire to innovate but feel overwhelmed by the sheer number of digital tools available, unsure of where to start or how to measure their progress. This can lead to inertia, with educators relying on familiar methods instead of exploring new possibilities. The **Digital Breakthrough Board** aims to resolve this by fostering a sense of achievement and clarity in adopting digital tools.

This nudge encourages educators to integrate digital tools into their teaching practices by providing a simple, tangible way to track their journey. By visually categorizing tools they plan to try, those they've mastered, and the impact of these tools on their students, the board creates a motivating environment that celebrates progress and inspires further exploration. The goal is to empower educators to experiment with technology in manageable steps while receiving reinforcement from visible achievements and student feedback.

The **Digital Breakthrough Board** aims to transform passive intentions into active experimentation with digital tools. Educators often feel overwhelmed by the vast array of available technologies and uncertain about where to start or how to measure progress. This nudge addresses these barriers by fostering structured goal-setting and progress tracking, ultimately embedding a culture of consistent digital tool adoption.



Behavioral Focus:

- **Active Engagement:** Encourages educators to transition from passive consideration of digital tools to deliberate exploration and integration into their teaching practices.
- **Incremental Progress:** Facilitates step-by-step achievement, making the process less overwhelming and more manageable.
- **Intrinsic and Extrinsic Motivation:** Combines gamification (intrinsic rewards of progress) with social proof (extrinsic validation through student feedback) to maintain sustained engagement.

Expected Change:

Educators will regularly assess and refine their teaching practices by visualizing milestones, achieving measurable progress, and incorporating feedback into their strategies.

Description of the Nudge

The Digital Breakthrough Board is both a visual tracker and a motivational tool designed to make the process of adopting digital technologies exciting and rewarding. By dividing the board into three clear sections—“Try Next,” “Mastered,” and “Student Feedback Wins”—it transforms the often-daunting task of incorporating new tools into a structured, gamified journey.

The board can be physical (a whiteboard in an educator’s office) or digital (using tools like Trello or Padlet). Educators start by listing tools in the “Try Next” column, such as platforms for interactive lectures, grading automation, or collaborative projects. As they gain confidence and integrate a tool into their teaching, they move it to the “Mastered” column, signifying progress. Finally, the “Student Feedback Wins” section highlights the positive outcomes of these efforts—student quotes, increased participation metrics, or improved engagement scores. This section not only reinforces the value of digital tools but also ensures that educators link their efforts to real-world impacts on learners.

Examples of what the board might include:

1. **“Try Next” Tool Example:** “Mentimeter for live polling” with a note: “Boosts interaction in large lectures.”
2. **“Mastered” Tool Example:** “Padlet for brainstorming activities” with the comment: “Class discussions were more collaborative.”
3. **“Student Feedback Wins” Example:** A sticky note reading: “Student: ‘The polls made lectures way more fun and interactive!’”

The board’s flexibility allows educators to personalize it to their needs while maintaining a structured approach to their digital transformation.

Nudging Technique

1. Visual Cues

Definition

Visual cues are stimuli in an environment that draw attention to specific information or actions, making it easier for individuals to focus on their goals. They serve as a constant, subconscious reminder of priorities and can significantly influence decision-making and behavior.



Application in the Digital Breakthrough Board

The board itself acts as a highly visible, persistent reminder of the educator’s commitment to exploring digital tools. By placing the board in a frequently visited location (e.g., office wall or desktop screen), educators are consistently prompted to engage with the goals and progress they have outlined. The structure of the board—divided into sections such as “Try Next,” “Mastered,” and “Student Feedback Wins”—creates a clear, visually intuitive system that simplifies tracking and motivates action.

Impact:

- **Ease of Recall:** The physical or digital presence of the board reduces cognitive load, as educators don’t need to remember their next steps—they are laid out visually.
- **Motivation through Visibility:** Seeing progress (tools moving from “Try Next” to “Mastered”) provides immediate, positive reinforcement.
- **Reduction of Procrastination:** The board counteracts the tendency to delay starting new tasks by making the steps visible and manageable.

2. Gamification

Definition

Gamification involves applying game-like elements—such as goals, rewards, and competition—to non-game contexts to increase engagement and motivation. It capitalizes on the human preference for achievement and incremental progress.

Application in the Digital Breakthrough Board

The board gamifies the process of adopting digital tools by creating a sense of progression. Moving a tool from the “Try Next” column to the “Mastered” column feels like a small victory, reinforcing a sense of accomplishment. Similarly, the addition of “Student Feedback Wins” adds a rewarding layer, where educators can visibly connect their efforts to tangible outcomes, like improved student engagement or positive comments.

Impact:

- **Sense of Achievement:** Every move between columns represents progress, which keeps the educator engaged and motivated.
- **Forward Momentum:** Breaking the journey into smaller, achievable tasks ensures that progress doesn’t feel overwhelming.
- **Long-Term Engagement:** The gamified structure encourages sustained participation, as educators are more likely to see the process as enjoyable rather than burdensome.

3. Social Proof

Definition:

Social proof refers to the psychological phenomenon where individuals look to others’ behaviors or opinions to guide their own actions. It is particularly effective when the proof comes from peers or stakeholders whose opinions are valued.

Application in the Digital Breakthrough Board:

The “Student Feedback Wins” section leverages social proof by showcasing the real-world impact of using digital tools. For example, a sticky note might include a comment like, “*Students loved the interactive poll using Mentimeter—it made the lecture feel dynamic!*” These visible endorsements validate the educator’s efforts, reinforcing the idea that adopting new tools yields positive results.



Impact:

- **Validation of Efforts:** Educators feel reassured knowing their peers or students appreciate their initiatives.
- **Encouragement to Explore:** Seeing tangible benefits motivates educators to continue experimenting with digital tools.
- **Community Building:** Sharing feedback among colleagues promotes a culture of collective learning and innovation.



Implementation Steps

1. **Create the Board:** Provide templates for physical boards (e.g., printable designs for whiteboards) and digital options (e.g., Trello, Jamboard).
2. **Identify Tools:** Help educators compile a starter list of digital tools relevant to their teaching goals, categorized by functionality (e.g., interactive lectures, assessment tools).
3. **Set Weekly Check-Ins:** Encourage educators to dedicate a few minutes each week to update their boards by moving tools or adding feedback.
4. **Celebrate Milestones:** Highlight progress during faculty meetings or newsletters to showcase successful digital transformations.
5. **Facilitate Peer Sharing:** Encourage educators to share their “Breakthrough Boards” with colleagues to inspire collaboration and mutual learning.

Classification Criteria

- **Cost of Implementation:** Low (materials for a physical board or free digital platforms).
- **Time Required:** Minimal (setup and weekly updates).
- **Ease of Implementation:** High (easy to use and adapt).
- **Digital Tools Involved:** Optional tools like Trello, Padlet, or Google Jamboard.
- **Level of Impact:** High (addresses inertia and fosters sustained motivation).
- **Scalability:** High (applicable to various educators and institutions).

Expected Outcomes

- **Increased Adoption:** More educators integrating digital tools into their teaching.
- **Improved Engagement:** Students experiencing more dynamic and interactive learning environments.
- **Sustained Motivation:** Educators maintaining a consistent habit of experimenting with and refining their use of technology.
- **Shared Success:** Creation of a collaborative culture where educators share their learnings and successes with peers.

Evaluation and Metrics

- Number of tools moved from “Try Next” to “Mastered.”
- Frequency of updates to the board.
- Educator feedback on the motivational impact of the board.
- Improvement in student engagement metrics (e.g., participation rates, satisfaction scores).

Challenges or Risks

- **Risk:** Educators may lose interest if progress feels slow or unnoticed.
 - **Mitigation:** Incorporate peer recognition through faculty-wide showcases of successful boards.
- **Risk:** Difficulty identifying appropriate tools.
 - **Mitigation:** Provide curated recommendations and tool overviews tailored to subject areas.

Resources Needed

1. **Templates and Examples:**

Printable templates for physical boards and digital equivalents like Trello boards or Google Jamboard templates will help educators start quickly and with minimal effort. These resources ensure consistency across departments while allowing for personalization.

2. **Curated Tool List:**

A comprehensive but accessible list of recommended digital tools, categorized by functionality (e.g., engagement tools, assessment tools), ensures educators can easily identify where to begin. This list should include a brief description, example use cases, and links to tutorials.

3. **Student Feedback Collection Guide:**

Provide educators with simple templates or digital forms (e.g., Google Forms) to collect student feedback on digital tools used. This ensures the “Student Feedback Wins” section is populated with authentic, meaningful quotes or metrics that validate their efforts.

4. **Support for Implementation:**

Faculty workshops or one-on-one coaching sessions will help educators set up their boards and explore initial tools. Peer-led workshops showcasing how colleagues use their boards can sustain engagement over time.

5. **Recognition System:**

Develop a framework for celebrating milestones, such as monthly or semester-based recognition for educators who demonstrate significant progress or share impactful results. This creates an additional layer of motivation and peer support.

Examples

Here are examples of universities that have effectively embraced digital transformation using innovative tools and practices, which align with the concept of the Digital Breakthrough Board:

1. University of Leeds: Comprehensive Digital Transformation Strategy

The University of Leeds places digital transformation at the heart of its strategic objectives. Their efforts include:

- A centralized approach to equipping educators with digital tools and support.
- Implementation of a digital transformation toolkit to evaluate progress and scale successful practices.
- A focus on engaging faculty in iterative improvements and collaborative projects using digital methods.

This aligns with the **Digital Breakthrough Board** idea, as Leeds emphasizes structured, measurable progress and cross-departmental learning to promote digital adoption. The university's approach to empowerment and visibility of achievements mirrors the motivation behind tracking tools like the board.

More details: [Jisc - Digital Transformation at the University of Leeds](#)

2. University of Nebraska: Leveraging Whatfix for Digital Training

The University of Nebraska has used **Whatfix**, a digital adoption platform, to integrate new technologies into teaching practices. They report using in-app guidance for training educators on complex digital workflows, helping faculty adopt tools efficiently. For instance:

- They deployed point-of-need content for educators to understand and use paperless electronic workflows.
- Metrics were used to assess adoption, providing actionable insights on digital tool mastery.

The **Digital Breakthrough Board** could complement such initiatives by visually tracking adoption rates and educator feedback, reinforcing digital learning milestones.

More details: [Whatfix Case Study – University of Nebraska](#)

3. Arizona State University (ASU): Adaptive Platforms for Engagement

ASU leads in integrating adaptive learning platforms that track educator and student progress in real time. Their use of personalized dashboards helps faculty:

- Identify gaps in student engagement.
- Optimize digital teaching strategies based on analytics.

This parallels the **Breakthrough Board's** focus on visible progress, as ASU's tools provide instant feedback on the effectiveness of new methods. Faculty can iterate their teaching approaches dynamically.

More details: [Digital Adoption in Higher Education](#)



4. Jisc Digital Strategies: Toolkits for UK Universities

Jisc has developed maturity models and toolkits to help universities like King's College London evaluate and implement digital strategies. These include:

- Frameworks for assessing digital maturity.
- Collaborative platforms for tracking adoption and success.

The **Digital Breakthrough Board** aligns with Jisc's emphasis on tracking and celebrating milestones to maintain engagement across faculties.

More details: [Jisc Digital Transformation Toolkit](#)

Prepared by the university of Camerino