

EdNet and Microsoft Talk Lean!

Microsoft Hosts EdNet

On July 18-20, Microsoft Corporation* (Redmond WA) hosted a meeting of *EdNet* – the Educational Network of Lean Aerospace Initiative (LAI). The meeting involved two separate workshops for EdNet members to set future directions for lean education, EdNet and the LAI Lean Academy™.

What is EdNet?

EdNet is the Educational Network of the Lean Aerospace Initiative (LAI), headquartered at MIT in Cambridge, MA. EdNet is made up of 26 university partners who collaborate to improve curriculum around enterprise-level lean practices in the aerospace industry and to advance “lean” thinking in aerospace education. The term “lean” is used by educators in the aerospace and defense industries to describe their philosophy of ideal industry operation. A lean enterprise is one that eliminates waste and optimizes the value delivered to all of its stakeholders.



Meeting Highlights

The first EdNet workshop brought together approximately 25 participants including Microsoft, universities, government and aerospace industry members. In addition to several key Microsoft participants, Co-director of LAI, Professor Debbie Nightingale, MIT Professor Earl Murman, EdNet sponsors, J.P. Besong (VP Rockwell Collins) and George Reynolds (Northrop-Grumman), all joined in the discussions. This team recognized the importance of lean education and focused on creating a strategic plan for the future of EdNet.

The second EdNet workshop included university and industry members who had participated in 2005 LAI Lean



Participants actively engaged in discussion about the future of the LAI Lean Academy™

Academy™ classes. Changes and new directions for the LAI Lean Academy™ were discussed. Microsoft presented important solutions that enable value stream mapping and general lean principles for the enterprise. One special highlight

was a VIP tour of the Boeing 777 plant in Everett, WA. This included presentations about Boeing’s lean enterprise and the preparations for the new Boeing 787 aircraft. The meeting concluded with much discussion around future directions for enhancing lean education.

Future Directions

- Enhancements to LAI Lean Academy™: advanced modules, optional modules, restructured sequence
- LAI Lean Academy™ Alumni Association
- LAI Lean Certification
- EdNet ongoing collaboration and communication
- EdNet virtual forums and online seminars

Microsoft and EdNet

Microsoft is an important supporter for LAI and EdNet. In addition to enabling lean through their tools, Microsoft provides expertise in technology areas that can help virtual collaboration among EdNet members. Microsoft is also dedicated to improving education and fostering communication between academia and industry. There is much potential for exciting ongoing collaborations between Microsoft and members of LAI and EdNet.



What’s Next for EdNet?

EdNet is embarking on a new five-year phase and a strategic plan is being developed to build upon the success of the LAI Lean Academy™ and expand and diffuse curriculum offerings to new audiences.

The strategic planning process is expected to continue for the next few months. The recent workshops hosted by Microsoft can be viewed as initial steps in forming a distributed, virtual learning community of academic and industry/government members to respond to the educational needs of the aerospace industry.

For More Information

For more information about EdNet or joining EdNet, please see our website or contact the EdNet program director at the address and phone number on this page.

<http://lean.mit.edu/ednet>

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