

Enhance Learning Experience with Interactive Mind Map

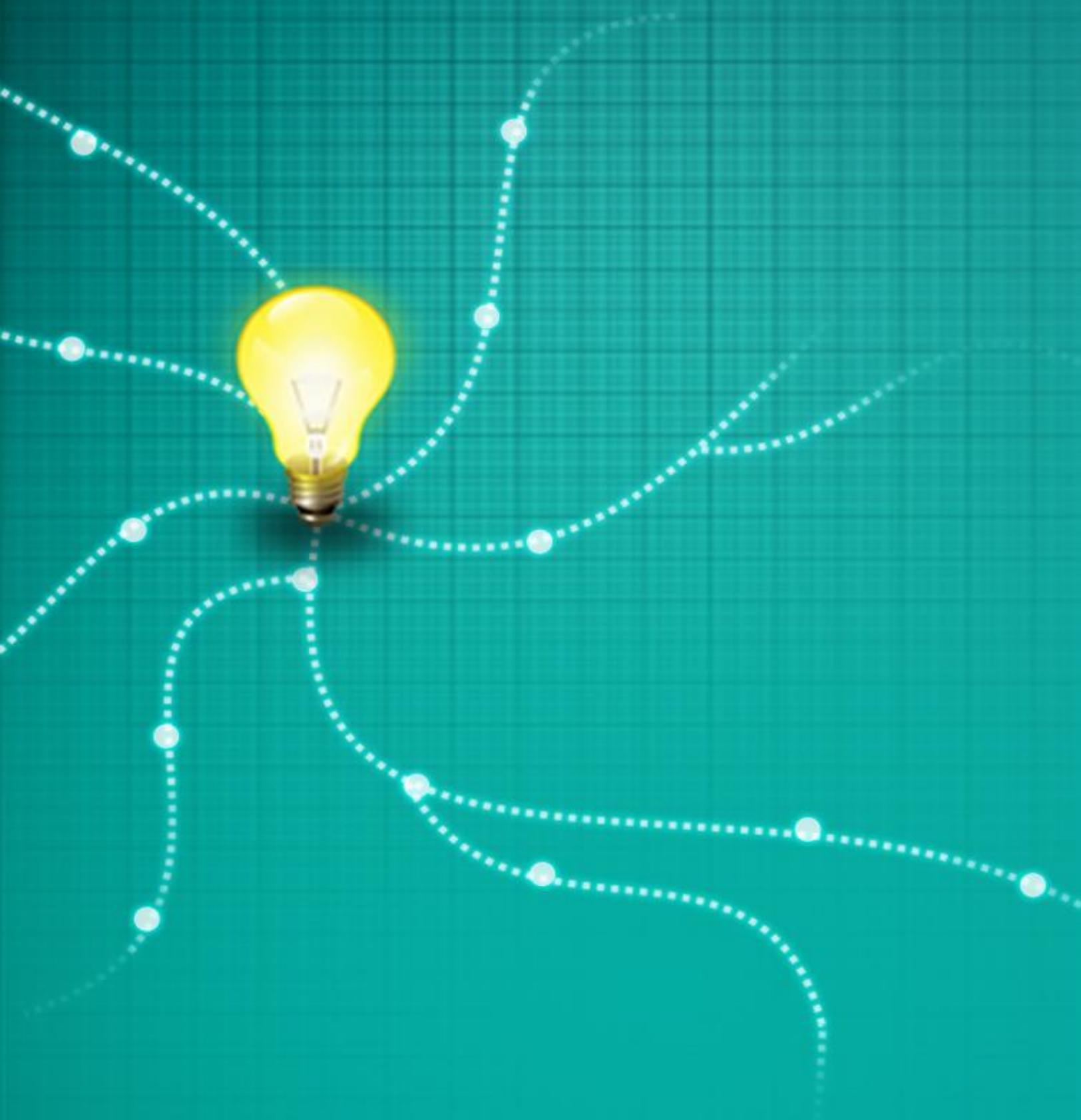




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Interactivity has become an integral part of all communication formats. Today educators appreciate the active learning methodology where participants can enhance their involvement through meaningful interactions. This collaborative effort makes the entire learning process an experience for both the parties.

Here, we will see how Mind Map, a well known concept, can be made interactive and a more powerful tool in e-learning classrooms.

About Mind Map

Mind Map is a graphical way to represent complex concepts and ideas. It is a visual thinking tool that helps the user organize content heavy information, into a better comprehensible and easy recallable format.

Basically, a Mind Map is created around a single word, text or situation, placed centrally, to which associated ideas, words and concepts are added radiantly. This was conceptualized by Tony Buzan, who understood the functioning of brain and figured out how this can be mapped to real life personal and professional scenarios.

A few cases where Mind Maps can be used in learning are:

1. showing complex processes
2. problem solving
3. outline/framework design
4. structure/relationship representations
5. condensing material into a concise and memorable format

Mind Map can be used in n number of scenarios from both business and education domain, where the information needs to be simplified and structured. It aids in collating different sets of ideas under an umbrella. It is often used by individuals during brainstorming when one does not have to evaluate an option but list down anything and everything that comes to his mind.

In a nutshell, it can be well said that Mind Map has given a new platform for professionals to map their thoughts and ideas from brain to paper.



Maps in Learning

Now, let us discuss how Mind Map as a concept brings that difference in learning space and gives that edge to the trainers over other traditional methods.

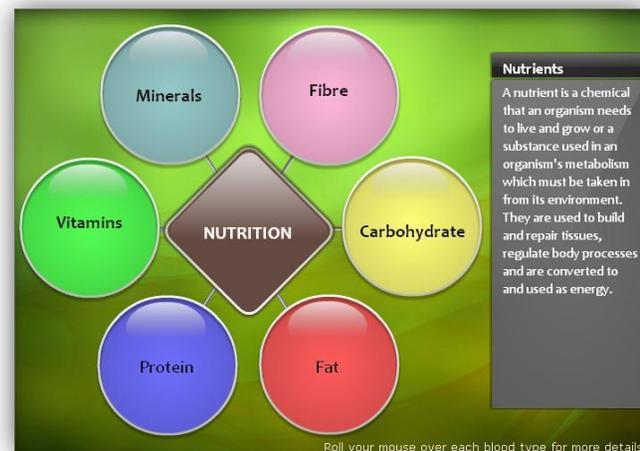
The traditional approach of presenting information is through text description, diagrams, graphs and tables.

Textual vs. Mind Map depiction:

NUTRIENTS

There are basically 6 types of nutrients that are used for the healthy human body:

- 1. Vitamins:**
Our body needs vitamins to function well. is an organic compound required as a vital nutrient in tiny amounts by an organism. In other words, an organic chemical compound (or related set of compounds) is called a vitamin when it cannot be synthesized in sufficient quantities by an organism, and must be obtained from the diet. Various vitamins are found in citric fruits and vegetables like oranges, kiwi etc...
- 2. Minerals:**
Our body needs minerals too. Minerals are mainly found in milk and cheese which contains calcium and keeps our bones and teeth strong. Salt is a mineral too, be careful not to eat too much salt.
- 3. Fibre:**
The basic function of fiber is that it keeps the digestive system strong. It is found in fruit, vegetables & cereals.
- 4. Carbohydrate:**
These are of 2 kinds -
 - a. SUGAR: Found in fruits, cakes, ice creams. Should be avoided to eat a lot.
 - b. STARCH: Found in bread, pasta, potatoes.
- 5. Fat:**
These are of 2 types:
 - a. SATURATED: Found in butter and shouldn't be eaten too much.
 - b. UNSATURATED: Found in olive oil. These are healthier than saturated fat.
- 6. Proteins:**
Proteins help our body, grow and keep healthy. Found in meat, fish, milk and beans.



Click on the image to view the interaction

The left panel of the screen shows textual details of different nutritional requirements for a healthy living, whereas on right hand side one can see the same set of information in Hub & Spoke Model, a more visually appealing and easily memorizable format. Nutrients as the center theme with basic elements like minerals, vitamins, proteins, fat etc placed as the branches of it. A click on the node gives detailed information about a particular nutrient.

Thus, using Mind Maps over long text descriptions help educators generate interest in the content and present information visually for better engagement with ultimately aids in memory retention.

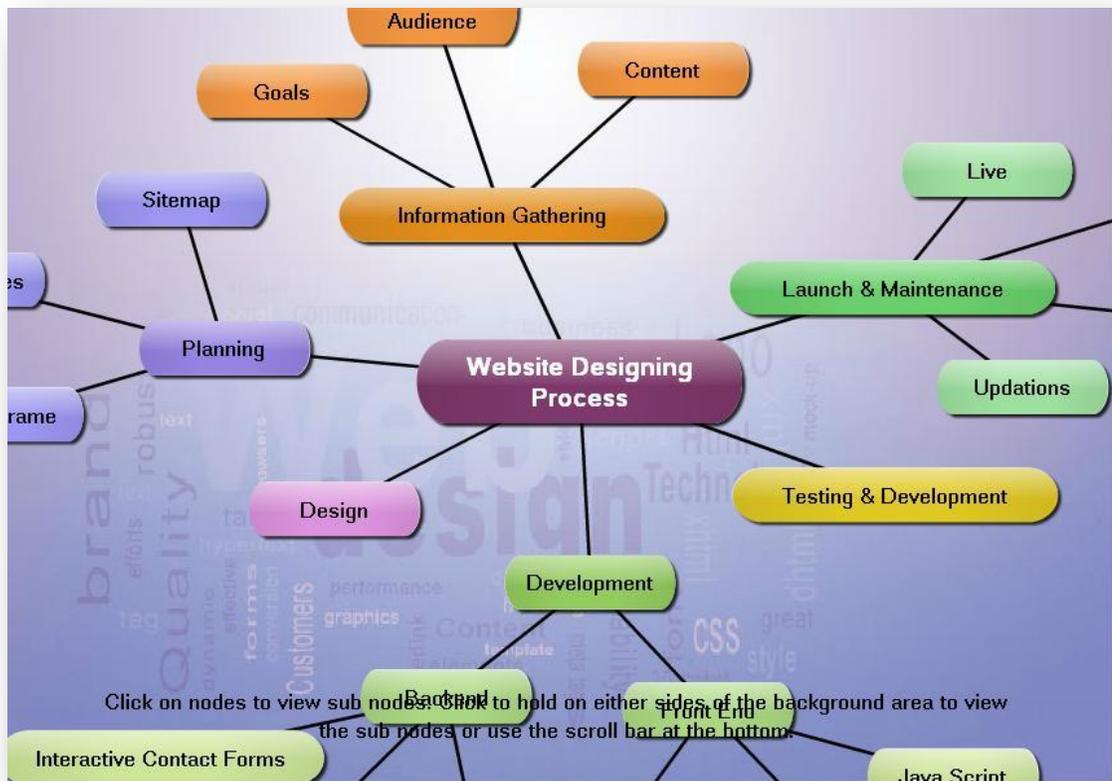


Evolution of Interactive Mind Map: A New Beginning

Mind Map is getting evolved with the introduction of new interactive tools to the basic concept. It is a fact that Mind Map has given a new horizon to e-learning, but there is more to explore. Active participation from learners has become the need of the hour for educators. This gives birth to the concept of Interactive Mind Map.

Interactive Mind Map:

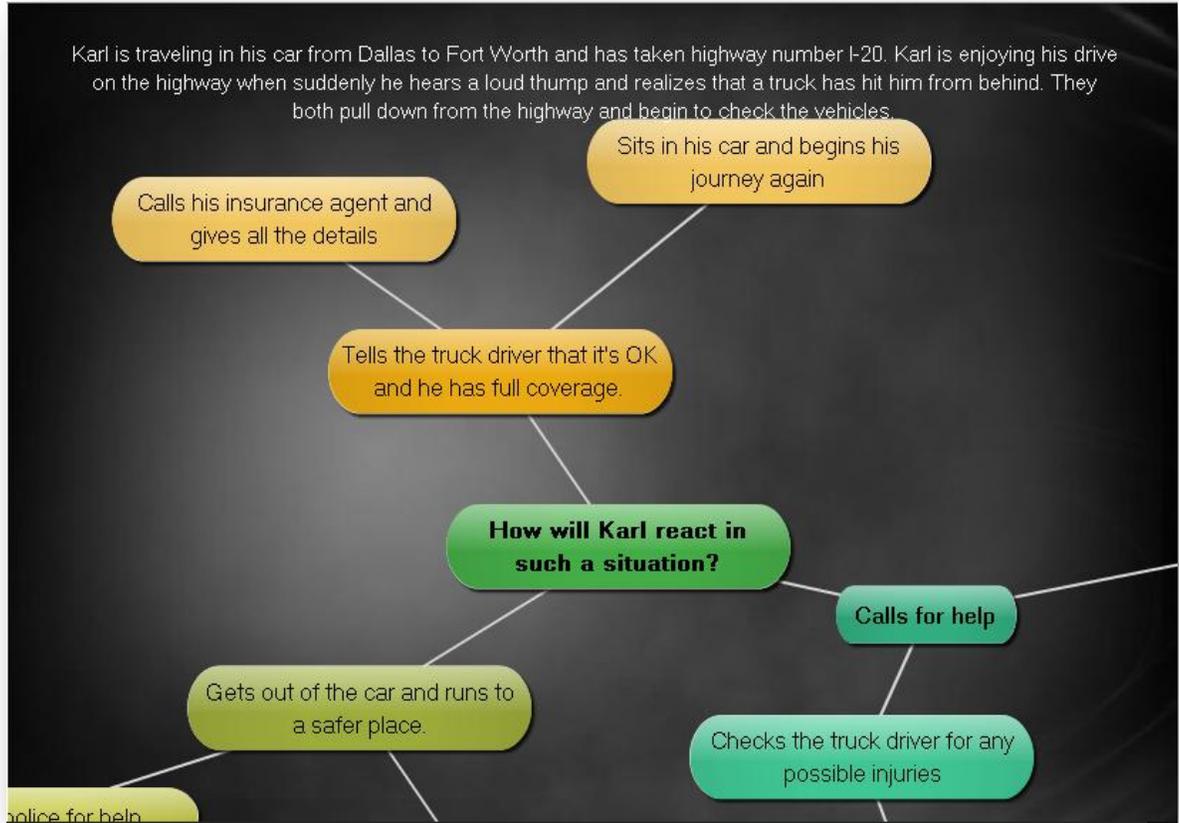
Interactive Mind Map is a teaching tool used by instructors to encourage active participation from the audience. There are various ways on how to make the entire model engaging, the educator has to intelligently chose the ones which best suits the subject and the target audience.



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Simulations through Interactive Mind Map:

Simulations, an imitation of real world scenarios, are being heavily used in learning today. This aids in better situation analysis and decision making.

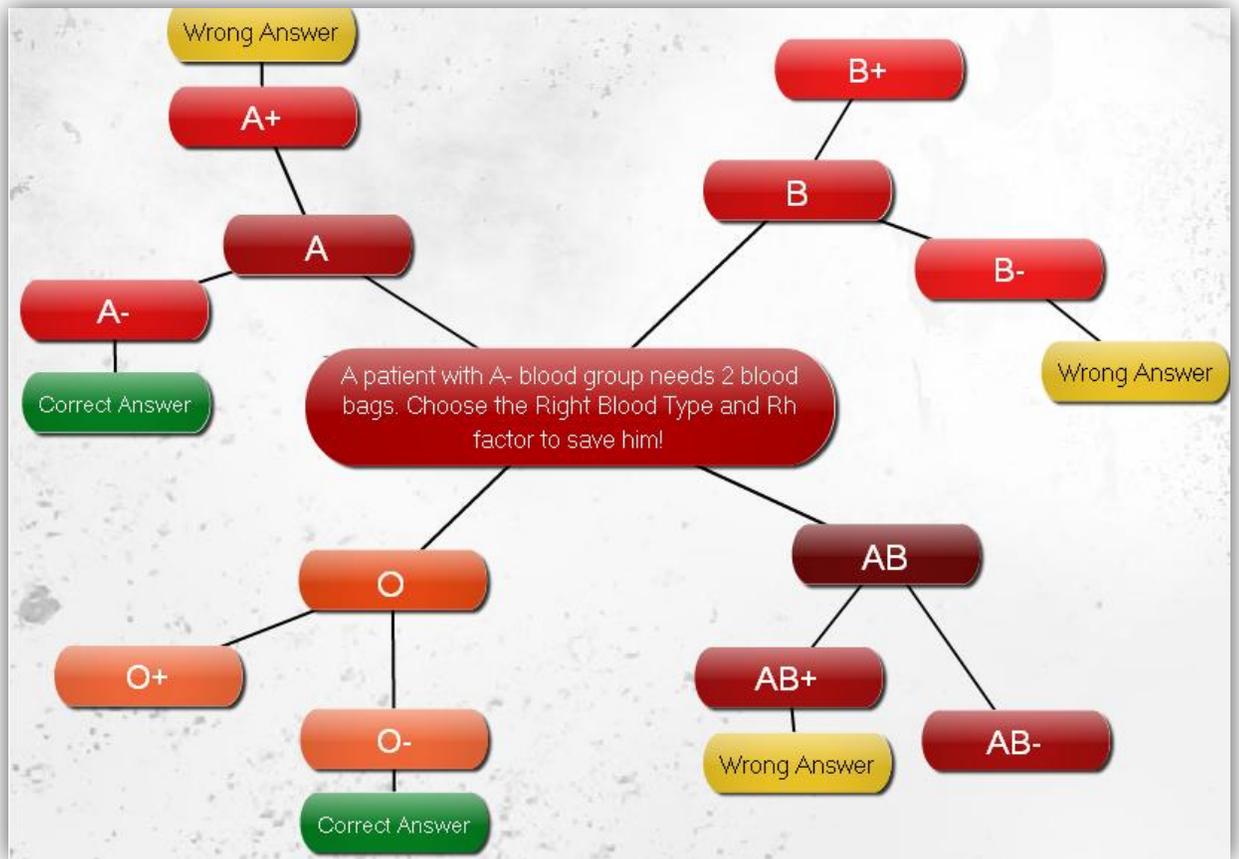


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The above diagram shows how Mind Maps can be used in simulations. It helps in understanding different scenarios step by step, with a proper logic flow. The learner gets to discover new cases with every step revealed and can grasp the information as his own pace.

Assessments through Interactive Mind Map:

Assessments have always been an important part of learning. It is one of the concern areas for most of the educators to make assessments interesting and challenging at the same time. Interactive Mind Map comes as a solution which helps to integrate assessment in the course in such a manner that it becomes fun filled learning experience for all.



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Testimonials

"There can be no clearer or more effective mental tool than Tony Buzan's Mind Maps."

Ray Keene, OBE. Correspondent for The Times

<http://www.thinkbuzan.com/us/products/imindmap/what-others-say>

"I am a teacher and I am developing a 'Mind Map' club to enable children to use Mind Mapping as a tool for learning. As I am using what I consider to be the best software for Mind Mapping, the children at school are reaping its benefits."

Paul Richardson, Primary Teacher, London UK

<http://www.thinkbuzan.com/us/products/imindmap/what-others-say>

"The use of Mind Mapping is an integral part of my Quality Improvement Project here at Boeing. This has provided savings of over \$10 million this year for my organization."

Mike Stanley, Boeing Corporation

<http://www.tonybuzan.com/about/testimonials/>

"I use Mind Mapping to brain dump after a phone call or other event when I wasn't able to take adequate notes. I also use it during presentations or meetings to take notes and find it useful for getting started on a brand new task, when otherwise I wouldn't know where to begin."

Director, Quality Assurance and Control

<http://www.mind-mapping.co.uk/stories.htm>



Summary

Mind Map is a much spoken concept now, our effort was not to define it, but be a pioneer in four-sighting the advanced uses of it. Mind Map is definitely a better mode of information representation and it depends on case to case of how it makes learning effective through Interactive Mind Maps. However, the new turn which this whitepaper gives to Mind Map is its use in Simulations & Assessment. There can be multiple ways how we can see Mind Map converging with the above two. It all depends on how our educators and instructors get creative with it.

Raptivity has recently introduced the Interactive Mind Map, where the users can embed videos, text and images on each node of the Mind Map. This interaction can be designed keeping in mind the requirement of the educators to create interesting courses for the learners to derive the most out of it.

To know more about Raptivity, please contact info@raptivity.com or visit us at www.raptivity.com.