

A faint, light gray world map is visible in the background of the slide. A thick blue horizontal bar with a slight 3D effect is positioned above the title.

# A Blended Approach to Adaptive Learning

**Barbara Buck, Ph.D.**  
**Matt Genova**  
*The Boeing Company*

**Robert Sottolare, Ph.D.**  
**Benjamin Goldberg, Ph.D.**  
*U.S. Army Research Laboratory*



## ■ Today's learning landscape hasn't changed in years

- One size fits all
  - Group paced and instructor led
  - “Training-centric”
- Expensive to operate
  - Higher costs associated with full time instructor staff and infrastructure



*“One size fits all” approach to training*

## ■ Requires a Paradigm Shift

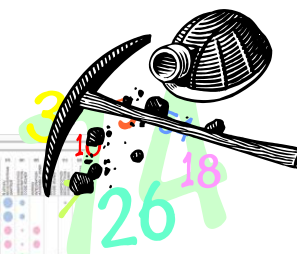
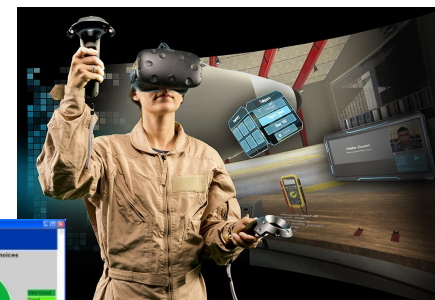
Custom-Fitting of Instruction  
Self-paced and student led  
“User-centric”

Less expensive to operate

Fewer instructors required, training  
at point of need, not all training  
needs to be completed in  
schoolhouse

Providing:

- Careful Measurement
- Instant Insight
- Direct Correlation of
  - Actions
  - Consequences
  - Performance
  - Competency



## Year 1

- Work to understand the adaptive training capabilities of the Boeing ITS and the GIFT architecture
- Determine an approach to integrate these two adaptive learning capabilities
- Demonstrate the viability of this concept through the development of an integrated adaptive prototype
- Define experimental design for Year 2 effectiveness study



## Year 2

- Conduct an effectiveness study to quantify the benefits of the adaptive capability
- Analyze study data



## Year 3

- Implement suggested architectural changes based on study data





U.S. ARMY  
**RDECOM**

UNCLASSIFIED  
**Generalized Intelligent  
Framework for Tutoring (GIFT)**

**ARL**



**A free, modular, open-source tutoring architecture to:**

- capture best tutoring practices and support rapid authoring, reuse and interoperability of ITSs
- lower costs and entry skills needed to author ITSs
- enhance the adaptiveness of ITSs to support self-regulated learning (SRL)

- ontology
- tools
- methods
- standards
- exemplars



- Automated Authoring
- Automated Instruction
- Accurate Learner Modeling
- Accurate Domain Modeling
- Evaluation Tools



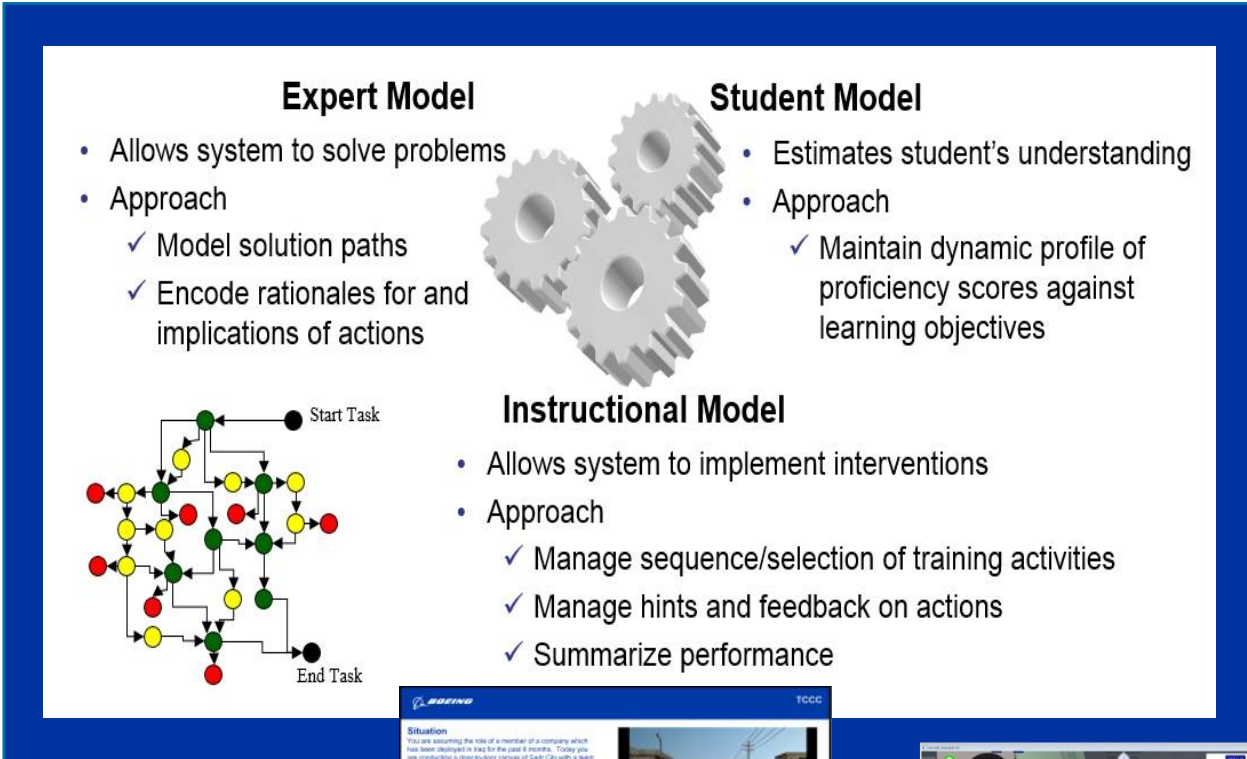
- Adaptive
- Affordable
- Effective



- Gritty
- Flexible
- Collaborative
- Critical Thinkers



*An Intelligent Tutoring capability that models the student and expert-level solutions to training exercises in order to provide personalized, task-specific instruction*



- Real-time student performance tracking on multiple learning objectives
- On-demand lesson help
- Customized feedback
- Within-lesson remediation
- Personalized learning experience





*Integrated Adaptive  
Learning Prototype*



*Combines aspects of both adaptive learning approaches into a blended personalized experience*



## P-8 Windshield Washer Pump Fault Diagnosis and Repair

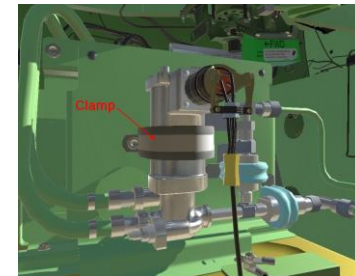
### GIFT Learning Concepts



Electrical Safety

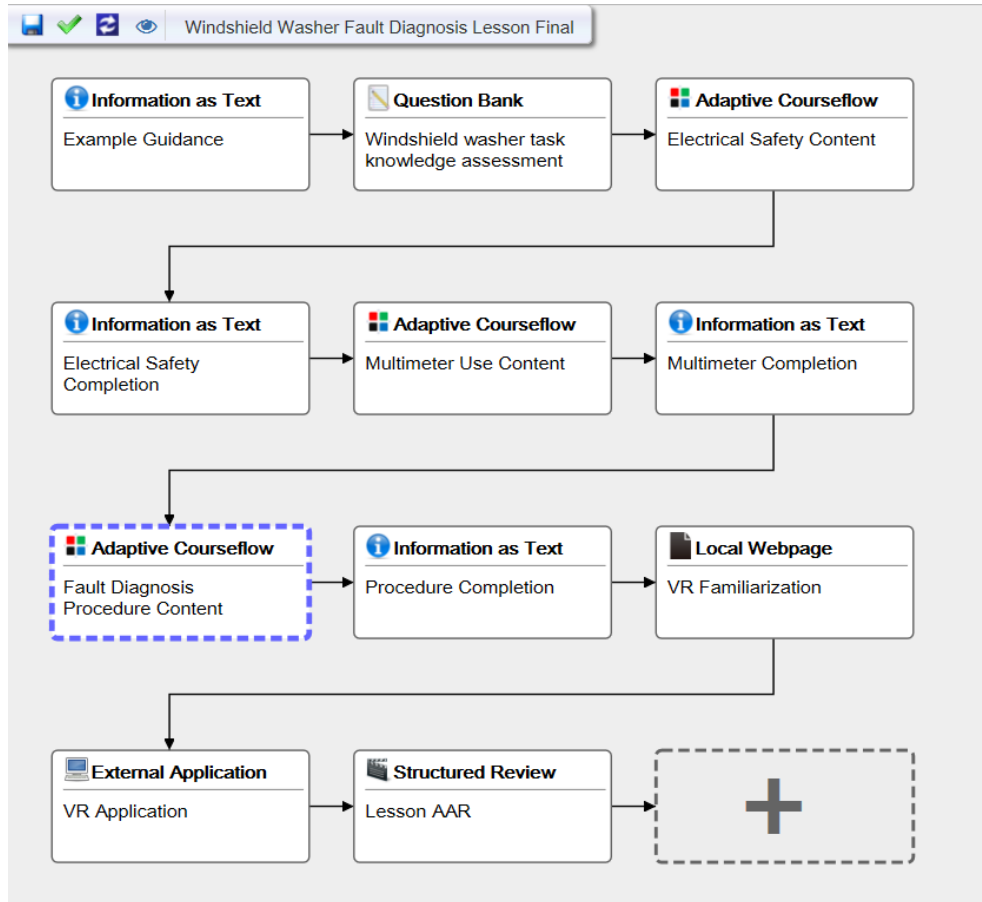


Multimeter Use



Fault Diagnosis  
Procedures





## Powered by **GiFT** Functionality

- Lesson Flow
- Knowledge Assessment
- Adaptive Courseflow Modules
- Underlying EMAP Concept Sequencing (Merrill's Component Display Theory)
  - Rules
  - Examples
  - Recall
  - Practice

## **BOEING ITS** Functionality

- Tailored Practice within each Adaptive Courseflow Module
- Final Practice Module within External Virtual Reality Environment

Scoring and lesson sequencing flowed seamlessly between the two environments

## Immersive VR Environment for final task performance

- Automatically launched by GIFT
- Students provided with tutorial on interaction within VR
- Performance within VR practice environment is scored and student receives pass/fail grade
- Grades and completion sent back to GIFT



- Plans to evaluate adaptive training approaches are in work
- Evaluation using West Point Cadets
- Differing ITS Methods
  - GIFT alone with EMAP personalization
  - Boeing alone using focused ITS interactions
  - Blended GIFT/Boeing Prototype leveraging both pedagogical methods
- Prior Knowledge
  - High knowledge
  - Low knowledge
- Potential to consider additional personalization methods
  - Motivation
  - Feedback

Notional Experimental Design		Prior-Knowledge	
		High	Low
ITS Methods	GIFT Alone	X	X
	Boeing Alone	X	X
	GIFT/Boeing	X	X

## Lessons Learned

- Similarities in approaches to optimization of learning experience by adapting to student strengths/weaknesses
- Differences in how performance assessment was used to adapt lesson
- Able to merge the two approaches into a lesson that was seamless from the student perspective
  - GIFT for initial knowledge assessment and lesson sequencing
  - Boeing ITS for within-module assessments and practice, detailed remediation
  - Interfaced with external Unity-based application

## Challenges

- Different approaches to student assessment and adaptivity
- Long-term student record persistence needed in GIFT
- Cannot remediate back to adaptive learning module within a lesson once mastered
- No GIFT standard for external application communication – custom gateway creation
- Usability issues: bugs, size limitations, proxy conflicts, authoring documentation
- Technology obsolescence of lesson content

