

## K16: How to keep up to date with emerging platforms, environments and technologies

### Overview of Knowledge Gained

Staying current with emerging platforms and technologies has become a key part of my practice as a creative digital designer. The digital landscape is constantly evolving, and through both my academic journey and personal development, I've learned the importance of adopting a mindset of continuous learning. Over the past three years, I've actively explored new tools and followed trends through a mix of formal learning and self-initiated research.

### How I Stay Up to Date

I keep up with developments in digital design and technology in several ways:

- **Online learning platforms** – I use websites like LinkedIn Learning, YouTube, and tutorials from software developers (e.g. Adobe, Figma) to explore new tools or updates.
- **Social media and design communities** – Platforms like LinkedIn, Instagram, and Facebook expose me to current trends, new tools, and real-world creative work. I follow designers, studios, and educators who often share updates and best practices.
- **Design blogs and newsletters** – I subscribe to resources like Technology Enhanced Learning – NHS, to keep updated with changes at work, and see emerging technologies, tools, and design standards on TikTok.
- **Academic exposure** – Through my degree, I've been introduced to new technologies like Synthesia (AI avatar video), Spline (3D web design), and immersive tools like Adobe Aero and Skybox, which pushed me to experiment beyond traditional platforms.

I also make time to explore new software hands-on. For example, I taught myself how to use Synthesia to produce AI video content, applying it to academic projects and gave confidence to explore AI options for my own business. This proactive exploration keeps my skills fresh and allows me to confidently recommend or adopt tools in my work.

### Challenges and Overcoming them

The main challenge has been the sheer volume of new tools and platforms becoming available. It can feel overwhelming trying to decide which are worth investing time into. I overcame this by focusing on relevance, prioritising tools aligned with my current work or future career goals, and trialling them through mini-projects or tutorials before adopting them more fully.

### Application in Practice

Staying current has helped me introduce innovative solutions into both my coursework and personal projects. For example, I used Synthesia to break up text-heavy e-learning content and create more engaging training materials for healthcare apprentices. I also explored website platforms like IONOS to launch my business and social media presence, gaining first-hand experience in emerging content environments.

As I move forward in my career, I will continue to scan the landscape for tools that improve workflows, accessibility, and audience engagement and share this knowledge with others through mentoring, collaboration, and creative experimentation.

### Evidence by Academic Year

Year	Focus Areas	Tools Explored	Key Projects
<b>Year 4</b>	Exploring standard design tools and industry platforms	Adobe Creative Suite, Figma	DPP100 – Design Practices & Processes
<b>Year 5</b>	Introduction to immersive and AI technologies	Spline, AERO, Skybox	IMM200 – Immersive Media, UX200 – UX/UI Design
<b>Year 6</b>	Applying emerging tech in creative projects and business	Synthesia, IONOS, Vyond, Social Media Tools	PRP300 – Personal Research Project, CRP300 – Critical Research Project