# TECHCRUNCH

**CourseTalk Launches A Yelp For Open Online Courses And What This Means For Higher Education**

One of the most popular topics in education technology these days is the subject of[**MOOCs**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eW3gMGqcZQc), otherwise known as “Massive Open Online Courses.” Thanks to the buzz around MOOC platforms like [**Coursera**](https://www.coursera.org/), **[Udacity](http://www.udacity.com/" \t "_blank)** and[**edX**](https://www.edx.org/), there are few universities and colleges that aren’t currently struggling with whether or not they should hop on the bandwagon.

Whether or not you’re long or short on MOOCs, it’s clear that, in the near term at least, they’re here to stay. However, as colleges, universities and more begin toying with open online courses and an increasing number of students and learners take to their virtual lecture halls, the signal-to-noise ratio has the potential to get pretty unfavorable. It’s for this very reason that Jesse Spaulding decided to launch **[CourseTalk](http://coursetalk.org/" \t "_blank)**.

{http://techcrunch.com/2012/11/29/coursetalk-launches-a-yelp-for-open-online-courses-and-what-this-means-for-higher-education/#comment-box}

# WIRED

# Clearest indication yet that polar ice sheets are melting fast

[A research paper](http://www.sciencemag.org/content/338/6111/1183) has drawn on data from Nasa and ESA satellites to produce the most comprehensive assessment of ice sheet losses in Antarctica and Greenland to date.

The paper, published on 29 November in the journal Science, shows that melting Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets have added 11.1mm to global sea levels since 1992. The paper, A reconciled estimate of ice sheet mass balance, was drawn together by an international team of 47 researchers, using data collected from ten satellite missions to produce the most consistent picture of polar ice sheets ever recorded. The resulting findings have been able to reconcile the differences that existed between previous ice sheet studies, by carefully matching observation periods and survey areas.

The findings of the international team -- the Ice Sheet Mass Balance Inter-comparison Exercise (IMBIE) -- give clarity to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's [2007 reports](http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar4/wg1/ar4-wg1-chapter4.pdf). The latter study's time scale was so broad that it was not possible to tell if Antarctica was growing or shrinking, but the use of data from Nasa and ESA satellites have confirmed that both Antarctica and Greenland are losing ice.

{http://www.wired.co.uk/news/archive/2012-11/30/antarctic-and-greenland-ice-sheets}

# New York Times

# Japan’s Space Agency Says Rocket Information Was Stolen by Computer Virus

TOKYO — [Japan](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/japan/index.html?inline=nyt-geo)’s space agency said on Friday that information on one of its newest rockets was stolen from a desktop computer by someone using a computer virus.

The [Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency](http://www.jaxa.jp/index_e.html) said that the virus in a computer at its Tsukuba Space Center northeast of Tokyo was found to be secretly collecting data and sending it outside the agency. The agency said that after the virus was detected by antivirus software on Nov. 21, it conducted an emergency sweep for viruses that showed no other computers at the center had been infected.

The agency said it was unclear if the virus was a cyberattack. Japanese defense companies, however, have been recent targets of similar information-stealing viruses, some previously traced to China.

The data stolen from the space agency included information about the Epsilon, a solid-fuel rocket still under development. While the Epsilon is intended to launch satellite and space probes, solid-fuel rockets of that size can also have a military use as intercontinental ballistic missiles.

The Epsilon, whose first launching is scheduled for next autumn, will also feature new technology that will allow it to be remotely controlled by a personal computer.

{http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/01/world/asia/japans-space-agency-says-rocket-information-was-stolen-by-computer-virus.html?ref=technology&\_r=0}