Enhancing the Student Experience: Canvas, eTexts, and Tegrity

**Canvas**

What is Canvas?
UW Canvas is learning management software that allows for simplified course management. Canvas improves communication between instructors and students by integrating multiple tools and methods such as discussion boards, assignment submission, class announcements, and notifications.

UW-IT Evaluation
From Autumn Quarter 2011 through Spring Quarter 2012, 140 UW faculty on all three campuses were involved in piloting Canvas. They taught over 7000 students in courses, from Chemistry to Sociology, using Canvas. The goal of the pilot is to understand how well Canvas meets the needs of instructors and students. All of this information will be considered in deciding if, when, and how Canvas is adopted at the UW. Comments from pilot participants:

- “I much prefer Canvas to either Catalyst or BlackBoard” — Faculty
- “It is the best that I have used so far.” — Faculty
- “It’s much better than both catalyst and blackboard. Especially blackboard. Interface is nicer, too.” — Student
- “Love SpeedGrader—efficient, allows easier comments, and uploads, easy to see state.” — Faculty

How Canvas is making a difference
One instructor used Canvas to hold online office hours—elevens and weekends—significantly increasing participation in office hours.

**eTexts**

What are eTexts?
Textbooks delivered online, available on any computer or device with a modern browser, including tablets and phones. UW-IT is exploring eTexts and their effects on student satisfaction and learning outcomes.

What eTexts offer
Students and faculty are especially excited about these features:

- Instant study guides bring together all notes and highlights on one page
- Social annotation and highlighting and annotation tools
- Full text search
- Fewer heavy textbooks to carry

Want to try eTexts?
Participation in the eText pilot project is open to all UW courses. If you would like to try eTexts in your course, send a message to etext@uw.edu or find more information at uw.edu/itsconnect/teach/etext.

**Tegrity**

What is Tegrity?
Tegrity provides Web-based lecture capture. Tegrity lets instructors easily record lectures and other class activities from a laptop (or any device with a Web connection). Students can then view (and review) published materials online using a Web browser or mobile device.

At UW, Tegrity has enabled:
- An injured instructor to provide multiple lectures and exam review, even when she couldn’t get to campus.
- Multiple snowbound instructors to provide critical foundational concepts early in the quarter.
- The UW Physical Therapy program to save about $10K per classroom (for an alternative lecture capture solution).
- Hundreds of students to continue their studies despite interruptions caused by weather and medical issues. Several students said that having Tegrity recordings to review was almost as good as in-class lecture.
- And of course, Tegrity is useful even when instructors and students can make it to class. Tegrity recordings of regular lectures make it possible for students to review class material, as this student comment indicates: “If there is something I don’t fully understand in class, I could come back to it later because of Tegrity and learn the material at my own pace.”

So far, Tegrity has been used in nearly 60 courses, by 45 instructors. The 276 recordings created by instructors have been viewed over 8000 times.

Want to try Tegrity?
Send a message to tegrity@uw.edu to get started.