Replacing Blackboard: Finding a New Learning Management System for WPI

Students: Eva Barinelli, Brian King, Daniel Wivagg
Advisors: Professor Paul Kirby, Professor Robert Traver PLA: Carolyn Detora
GPS: Ignorance Is NOT Bliss

Problem
• WPI needs a more user-friendly learning management system (LMS)
• Students and faculty do not use Blackboard to its full potential

Solution
• WPI should replace Blackboard with Canvas
• Follow a two year plan for implementation

Decision Methodology
• Research
• WPI LMS Criteria
  • LTI Integration
  • Banner Integration
  • Cloud-Based
• Student Surveys
• Student Trials
• Outside Reports
  • Feedback from universities using Canvas

Functions that Need Most Improvement
According to a Survey of WPI Undergraduates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Percentage of Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Checking Grades</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submitting Assignments</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessing Course Information</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessing Lecture Notes</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessing Assignments</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Timeline for Canvas Implementation

- **Summer 2016**
  - Transfer Fall 2016 courses to Canvas
  - LTI Integration
- **Fall 2016**
  - Transfer Spring 2017 courses to Canvas
- **Spring 2017**
  - Fully implement Canvas

Benefits of Canvas
• Long-Term Solution
• Simple Transition
• Meets all WPI criteria
• Cloud Based System
• User-Friendly GUI

Student Trial Results

- First Choice LMS
  - Canvas
  - Other

Decision Methodology

- Research
- WPI LMS Criteria
  - LTI Integration
  - Banner Integration
  - Cloud-Based
- Student Surveys
- Student Trials
- Outside Reports
  - Feedback from universities using Canvas

References
De Vries, J. (2014). Get real about selecting an LMS: Organizations often fail to define what they want from a new learning management system in advance and then find that dissatisfaction with the vendor and additional customization costs derail the purchase. Educational Media Group, LLC.

Acknowledgments
• Amber L. Vaill – Director, Office of Teaching, Learning and Technology, Becker College
• Ed Casey – Lead Instructional Technologist, Brown University
• Gail Rankin – Director, Academic and Educational Technologies, Salem State University
• Lindsey Van Geison – Instructional Technology Systems Specialist, WPI

“Navigation was extremely easy in Canvas. Everything was straightforward and easy to find ... simple to use, and fairly intuitive.”
Sophomore - WPI

“While we initially had students ‘test drive’ Canvas when we were still investigating what LMS we should change to and by and large they chose Canvas.”
Ed Casey – Brown University

Benefits of Canvas
• Long-Term Solution
• Simple Transition
• Meets all WPI criteria
• Cloud Based System
• User-Friendly GUI