2015

Replacing Blackboard: Finding a New Learning Management System for WPI

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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

- Checking Grades
- Submitting Assignments
- Accessing Course Information
- Accessing Lecture Notes
- Accessing Assignments

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

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

“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

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

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

Summer 2016
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- LTI Integration

References
- De Vries, J. (2014). Get real about selecting an LMS: Organizations often fail to define what they want their new learning management systems to accomplish before buying, leading to dissatisfaction with the vendor and additional customization costs after the purchase (Industrial Media Group). (http://wwwDebeVries.com/2014/03/14/get-real-about-selecting-an-lms-organizations-often-fail-to-definition/