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
According to a Survey of WPI Undergraduates

Solution
• WPI should replace Blackboard with Canvas
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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

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

“Initially we tested the 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

References
De Vries, J. (2014). Get real about selecting an LMS: Organizations often fail to define what they want their new learning management system to do before buying it, leading to dissatisfaction with the vendor and additional customization efforts after the purchase (Lakewood Media Group, LLC).