How to Click with your Students: Student Response Systems in Support of Good Practice

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Features to Consider

• Radio frequency (RF) vs. Infrared (IR)
  – RF can handle more load
  – RF is not limited to line-of-sight
  – RF receivers have more flexible power requirements (e.g., USB)
    (RF is the better choice)
Features to Consider

• Data stewardship issues
  – What information does the company require (if any) from UI staff/students that might conflict with FERPA?
Features to Consider

• Licensing issues pertaining to hardware distribution
  – Are the clickers themselves able to be purchased from the bookstore?
  – Is it possible for students to sell clickers back to the bookstore as they would a text?
  – Can colleges or departments checkout systems/clickers to instructors/students?
Features to Consider

• Cost to students
  – Both actual and perceived (e.g., annual registration fee)
Features to Consider

• Possible leapfrogs
  – Are the current technologies we are considering highly transitional?
  – Smart phones and handheld computers with web interfaces: When will they be standard student equipment?

• Desirable: WiFi integration that opens the door to wireless handhelds and laptops being used as the clicker.
Features to Consider

• Portability
  – Can an entire system be easily schlepped to a classroom when needed?
Features to Consider

• Integrations with ubiquitous software (e.g., ICON and PowerPoint)
  – Ability to save student responses and upload into an ICON gradebook, for example.
  – We may end up developing this integration ourselves, but desirable features of any solution would be:
    • ability to identify individual student answers
    • ability to save results in some intermediate, standard format (e.g. CSV, Excel, etc.)
Features to Consider

• Platform agnosticism
  – Does it work on a Mac as well as Windows?
  – Linux?
  – If yes, is the software the same on each platform?
Features to Consider

• Accessibility
  – What affordances are there for someone who is challenge by the clicker form factor?
Features to Consider

• Online training and documentation available from vendor
  – Is it thorough and up-to-date?
Features to Consider

• Support agreement from vendor
  – What kind of phone support?
  – Turnaround time for questions
Regent Schools

- Iowa State
  - Turning Technologies
- University of Northern Iowa
  - Turning Technologies
  - Site licenses have been negotiated at both schools
Peer Schools

- Penn State Survey Results of CIC Schools (2006)
  - 3 have standardized on e-Instruction CPS
  - 2 on TurningPoint
  - 2 have no plan to standardize
  - 1 has started investigative stages
  - 3 no response
Purdue University

• Standardized adoption
• http://www.itap.purdue.edu/tlt/einstruction/
Local Activity

• Already Using
  • Physics
  • Psychology?
  • Business – Qwizdom

• Evaluating
  • Pharmacy (Turning Point)
  • Library (Qwizdom or i>Clicker)
  • Law
Resources

• Student Response Systems – EDUCAUSE