

Adobe Connect, the Tablet PC and the Classroom Workshop

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Based on an SPU 2007
Technology Grant

Sponsored by ITS, CSFD, and CIS

Awarded to:
Engineering (Plett, Gjerding, Peter, Scott)
Business & Economics (LaBrie, Van Duzer)

Virtual Synchronous Classroom



Adobe Connect, the Tablet PC and the Classroom Today's Agenda

1. Demonstrate the two systems
2. Discuss uses in the classroom
3. Provide a brief history and motivation for this technology
4. Discuss how engineering and Business are using these technologies
5. Discuss successes and cautions
6. Q&A and discussion

Demonstrations

- Adobe Connect
 - Go to <http://media.spu.edu:8888/virtualclassroom>
 - Sign in as a guest
- Tablet PC
 - 'electronic whiteboard'
 - writing on
 - Word documents
 - Powerpoint slides
 - PDF docs

Classroom Uses for Adobe Connect

1. Remote presence for distant students
2. Recording class sessions
 - For absent students
 - For studying
3. Remote Guest Speakers
4. Pre-recording a lecture
5. Teaching from a distance
6. Remote presence for office hours (or recording office hours)

Classroom Uses for Tablet PC

1. During class: allows 'writing on' Powerpoint slides and documents
2. Grading: allows electronic 'marking up' of student work
 - returning graded work to remote students
 - Archiving
3. After class: allows distribution of classroom 'whiteboard'
4. Student group work: allows ease of archiving and sharing student designs, diagrams, mathematics

Background

- SBE noticed students missing class for business travel
- Two ISM graduate students studied various options and recommended Adobe Connect
- 2005/2006 informal piloting in SBE (LaBrie) with an old laptop with a cheap webcam
- 2006/2007 Engineering sought means of remote presence for full-time working students
- 2007 to present – SBE and Engineering joined forces for an SPU Tech grant

Virtual Synchronous Classroom Equipment

IN THE PHYSICAL CLASSROOM

- Bare minimum
 - high tech classroom
 - instructor mic (web cam, PC mic, lapel mic, ...)
- Enhanced
 - Tablet PC (for electronic whiteboard capabilities)
 - Webcam(s)
 - Room microphones
 - Instructor-lapel microphone
 - Audio mixer

FOR THE REMOTE ATTENDEE

- Minimum: computer with speaker and internet connection
- Enhanced: mic & headphones and/or a webcam

Costs for Virtual Synchronous Classroom

- **Money**
 - Classroom \$10-\$3500
 - Tablet PC \$2500
 - A/V for campus classroom (approx. \$1000) mic's, web cameras, mixer, cables, etc.
 - Campus Adobe Connect license
- **Setup (Initial, daily)**
 - Initial setup in a particular classroom, A/V, technical issues
 - daily setup time (5-30 minutes)
- **Learning curve**
 - Adobe Connect and Tablet PC (3-4 sessions)
- **Mental energy and time**
 - Teaching to two groups simultaneously
 - Logistics of homework, labs, exams, 'office hours'

Engineering and Business uses

- **Daily live-sessions (Engineering):**
 - *Fall 2007*: used by one student for an entire class (twice from Turkey!)
 - *Winter 2008*: regularly used for five students in three courses (students come to campus weekly for labs)
- **Daily recordings (Engineering):**
 - *Summer 2007*: used by one student for an entire indep. study course
 - *Winter*: regularly used for three remote students in two courses (students come to campus weekly for labs)
- **Occasional live sessions and/or recordings (Business):**
 - *Spring 2007, Fall 2007, Winter 2008*
- **Additionally...**
 - used by Melani Plett for remote office hours
 - used by Ryan LaBrie in Business to teach from out of town
 - used by Ryan LaBrie for global meetings (China to Seattle)
 - used by Don Peter to pre-record a class session

Successes and Cautions

- **Successes**
 - On campus students appreciate the recordings
 - Remote students are enthusiastic about the VSC
 - Setup time is short once experienced
 - Equipment is fairly reliable
 - Recordings are fairly reliable
 - Office hours with the VSC are successful
- **Cautions**
 - The VSC is reliant on many technologies, and things do go wrong. There is always a chance that something will prevent...
 - the remote person from connecting
 - the classroom from broadcasting
 - the audio from being clear
 - the recording from saving successfully.
 - Teaching with the VSC requires some change in pedagogy
 - It takes time and effort to accommodate dual sets of students

Thank you...

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