Course Management System
Use in the University of Wisconsin System

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What Are Course Management Systems?

• Suites of software tools frequently organized around a class or unit of instruction

• Contain most of the tools or functions faculty will need in order to teach online
  - Content presentation and organization
  - Communication tools
  - Assessment tools
  - Gradebook
  - Class management tools
Examples of Course Management Systems

Blackboard

WebCT

eCollege

Desire2Learn
Innovative Learning Technology
University of Wisconsin Course Management System Study

- Summer and Fall 2002
- Interviews with 140 faculty and staff at all UW institutions
- Survey of 740 faculty members
- Analysis of actual usage of course management systems
- Funded by Educause
Course Management System Use in the University of Wisconsin System, Fall 2002

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campus</th>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colleges</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>9,836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eau Claire</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>8,738</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Bay</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>1,730</td>
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<tr>
<td>LaCrosse</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>9,713</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madison</td>
<td>1,667</td>
<td>29,971</td>
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<tr>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
<td>553</td>
<td>20,505</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oshkosh</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>6,713</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parkside</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>2,158</td>
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<tr>
<td>Platteville</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>2,695</td>
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<tr>
<td>River Falls</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>9,662</td>
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<td>Stevens Point</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>1,409</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stout</td>
<td>481</td>
<td>7,137</td>
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<tr>
<td>Superior</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitewater</td>
<td>558</td>
<td>15,342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extension</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,160</strong></td>
<td><strong>126,814</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ways That Faculty Use Course Management Systems

- Enhance Face-to-face Classes: 80.07%
- Teach Fully Online Courses: 26.81%
- Teach Hybrid Courses: 25.57%
- Other: 12.52%
Other Uses for Course Management Systems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use</th>
<th>Number of Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organization or Departmental Support</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Advising or Intern Supervision</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for Compressed Video Courses</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gradebook</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost Reduction</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
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</table>

n=43
Pedagogical Reasons for Using a Course Management System

- Supplement lecture material: 70.78%
- Increase contact with students: 66.61%
- Provide more interactivity between student and content: 64.43%
- Provide more prompt feedback: 60.07%
- Increase student-student contact: 51.00%
- Provide more transparency: 38.66%
- Increase time on task: 30.49%

n=551
Effect of the Use of Course Management Systems on the Time Students Spend Engaged with Course Materials.

- Yes, Students Spend More Time: 63%
- No, Students Spend less Time: 10%
- No difference: 27%

n=563
Effect of the Use of a Course Management System on Contact Between the Instructor and Students

- Yes, Has Increased Faculty-Student Communication: 59%
- No, Has Decreased Faculty-Student Communication: 7%
- Had No Effect: 34%

n=560
Capability of Course Management System to Enable Faculty to Include More Interactivity in Their Classes

- Yes, More Interactivity: 57%
- No difference: 40%
- No, Less Interactivity: 3%

n=560
Faculty Confidence in the Capacity of the Course Management System to Accommodate Diverse Learning Styles

- Yes: 63%
- No: 37%

n=554
Changes in Faculty Levels of Use Since Starting to Use a Course Management System

Usage is more: 62%
Usage is less: 5%
Usage about the same: 33%
Changes That Would Encourage Faculty to Use Course Management Systems More

- Greater ease of use: 38.58%
- More features: 20.54%
- More training for faculty: 15.36%
- More training for students: 12.48%
- Other: 7.29%
- More certainty about reliability: 5.76%

n=521
Conclusions

- New generation of course management systems
- Importance of faculty development and training
- Importance of sound infrastructure and support for the Utility
- Importance of student training

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