WORD OF MOUSE

Mobile Technology in the Classroom

Is there a way to incorporate mobile technology into the classroom instead of banning it? A science teacher in Wyoming, London Jenks, has found a way.

Jenks' reason for allowing the students to use their own phones or other mobile devices, whether it's an iPhone or an Android, is simple. Students need little or no training on how to use the device. This allows them to quickly access the Internet, interact with their instructor and other students, and use innovative tools like QR codes.

In a recent interview for THE Journal, Jenks answered a few questions about the use of QR codes in the classroom.

Interviewer Bridget McCrea: How do you use them in class?

Jenks: Students respond to questions using their cell phones and services like Poll Everywhere (for classroom polling) and Cha Cha (for quick, fact-based research). I also use QR codes, which lend themselves to scavenger hunt activities very well... I also use QR codes when I want to provide students with the chance to check their answers at any time by encoding those answers in the QR code.

McCrea: How do QR codes help you as a teacher?

Jenks: By creating immediate student engagement. Being able to use their own devices allows students a level of comfort and familiarity that they don't usually experience with technology at school. There is very little that they need to learn to use the technology. It also provides them with access to the same technologies outside of the classroom.

(McCrea, Bridget. *QR Codes in the Classroom*. Found on http://thejournal.com/Articles/2011/08/31/QR-Codes-in-the-

New Technology in Lansdale

The open house is over, the ribbon has been cut and the new DeSales campus located at 815 Sumneytown Pike in Upper Gwynedd Township, offers 7 classrooms all equipped with the most innovative interactive whiteboards from SMART Technologies. These SMART Boards are multitouch, which allow more than one person to interact with the board at the same time. With the interactive whiteboard professors can interact with multimedia content and write notes in digital ink, then save them instantly and distribute the material to the students. SMART Boards make learning a visual, engaging experience for students, which helps deepen understanding and promote retention of course material.

For more information regarding Lansdale's hardware and software, please visit the instructional technology page located at http://deit.desales.edu.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Getting Connected

It is hard to believe that by 2015 close to 2.9 billion people will have access to the Internet (this is based on the projected world population of 7.2 billion people). The way that those people will access the internet is changing drastically. In the United States, Western Europe, and Japan more people will be accessing the internet through smart phones and tablet computers.

This will lead to the decline of people accessing the internet through PCs which will first stagnate then slowly decline.

This trend will cause the Internet to become a very different place.

Google Plus – Facebook Killer?

If you haven't been living under a rock for the last year or two, you are likely aware of Facebook; the ubiquitous social media application for communicating with your friends, family, co-workers, and a myriad of other entities on the net. Currently, Mark Zuckerberg reigns supreme as king of social media, but there is a new application creating a buzz on the internet. Like MySpace before it, Facebook is faced (no pun intended) with a growing challenge in Google Plus (or Google+). So, what exactly is Google Plus?

Read below to find out more.

It's Facebook

Yes, Google Plus is in fact very much like Facebook. You can update statuses, follow your friends, and comment and/or like other statuses. You can set up chat sessions and use Gmail to communicate outside of Google Plus. There is an important, fundamental difference between Facebook and Google Plus… the idea of "circles".

Google's director of communications products and social applications, Bradley Horowitz, describes circles:

"We've created a system that's based on the concept of circles, so that I can take my college friends and drag them into a circle called 'college buddies,' and I can take my work colleagues and drag them into a circle that's called 'work friends.' And I can share selectively the parts of myself with those circles that I choose to."

Google is trying to solve the age-old issue of "what happens when my mom 'friends' me?". You can very easily and selectively share your updates and statuses with whom you would like to. For example, you might want to plan a surprise birthday for your significant other. You can create a circle and add family and friends to it, and communicate and plan without your husband or wife ever knowing!

It's Twitter

Unlike Facebook, you can "follow" people you are interested in without them having to add you as a friend. Like Twitter, you can see the public updates of those people you follow. Here's an example scenario: you're a huge techy and love all kinds of gadgets and electronics. You create a circle called "technology" and search for and add people like Bill Gates, Steve Jobs, and Larry Page. Unless you're incredibly important (or just lucky) they most likely would not follow you. However, you can see all their public statuses and stay up to date with real time technology information.

Conclusion

Google Plus is very much a combination of Twitter and Facebook (at least that's my take on it) with some added security and privacy options. If you are familiar with one or the other (or both) social media applications, you should feel at ease using Google Plus. The application is in a closed beta right now. So if you do not have an invite, unfortunately, you will have to wait.

One benefit to Google Plus is that if you decide not to use it and delete your account, Google promises to delete all of your info off of their servers. This is a promise Facebook has never made.
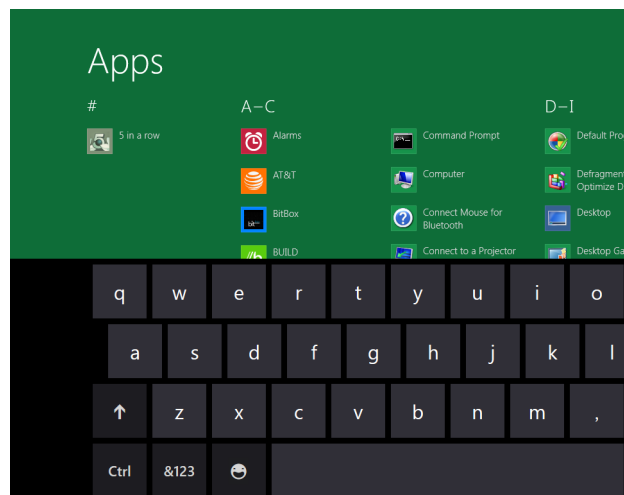
A New Look For Windows

Microsoft recently released a preview version of Windows 8 to developers and early adopters. While changes will still be made to the newest of Microsoft's operating systems, and an official release date has yet to be made public, the preview version provides some hints into the changes Microsoft is making to Windows.

The biggest and most obvious change is a new default interface. Windows 8 boots up into a tile-based "Metro" interface, similar to the one in use on Windows phones and tablets. While the Metro interface is ideal for touchscreens, early adopters have reported that using a keyboard and mouse is still possible. The tiles can be used to launch applications, but many are much more interactive, with live data updating throughout the day.

A Windows 7 style desktop is still available through the Desktop tile. Applications can be placed on the desktop, or launched from the file manager, but the Windows Start menu has been removed. Clicking on the Start Orb that brings up the list of programs in Windows 7 goes back to the Metro screen in Windows 8. To avoid problems finding and launching programs, Windows 8 gives you the ability to find any application on the computer by simply starting to type on a keyboard or using the available touch keyboard while on the Metro start screen.

While more changes will certainly be coming, the general comments coming from reviewers have been positive. Some aspects reviewers have liked include a quicker boot time, reduced memory usage, and overdue features such as taskbars and wallpaper now able to span multiple monitors. Windows 8 is also expected to have a much tighter integration with Windows Live, so signing up for a Windows Live account now will probably pay off once Windows 8 is released.

Windows 8 is likely at least 6 months from release, and there are no current plans to implement Windows 8 at DeSales University. Anyone interested in testing out Windows 8 can start by downloading the developer preview from http://dev.windows.com.

What's New @ DSU: An Inside Look at DEIT Activities

Macs, iPads Available in Library & Dooling

There are now three Mac laptops available for faculty and student circulation at Trexler Library. Faculty also have access to five circulating iPad 2s. If you would like to check out one of these Apple products, please go to the Circulation Desk in Trexler Library to speak with staff member. These products are in addition to the 20 Mac laptops currently available within the Instant Mac Lab in Dooling Hall. At the present, the Macs in Dooling Hall are solely for faculty use. To reserve one of these laptops, please see the Masters of Education department, or call them at x1461.

DEIT Staff to Attend EDUCAUSE

The DEIT staff will be attending the EDUCAUSE conference in October. EDUCAUSE is a nonprofit association whose mission is to advance higher education by promoting the intelligent use of information technology. DEIT is attending to gain knowledge on what is current in the technology field for higher education

15 ANGEL Open Workshop	10:00-11:30 a.m.	
17 iPads in Education	11:00-2:00 p.m. **ONLINE**	
17 ANGEL Course Management	6:00-7:00 p.m.	
20 iTunes and Podcasts	3:00-4:00 p.m.	
22 Grading and Gradebook	10:00-11:30 a.m. **ONLINE**	
26 SMARTBoard 101	10:00-11:30 a.m. **ONLINE**	

Register for workshops by going to:
www.desales.edu/workshops

Meet Jing

Ms. Jing Wang started to serve the role as the instructional designer in the Department of Distance Education and Instructional Technology at DSU since August 2011.
Prior to that, she worked as an instructional designer at the University of Wisconsin-Extension, Division of Continuing Education, Outreach & E-learning, where she consulted with faculty and clients to identify training needs, designed, developed online courses and Web-based and face-to-face training programs using sound instructional design principles. Jing graduated with an M.S. in Instructional Systems from Florida State University in 2006, and was a part-time instructional designer at the Florida Distance Learning Consortium in 2007. She is experienced in online and hybrid course design and makes continuous efforts to integrate emerging technologies and educational tools to promote the success of online learning.

CoursEval Moved to New Server

ConnectEDU has moved the DeSales instance of CoursEval to another server, which has resulted in changes to the hyperlinks used to access the system. The ANGEL LMS CourseEval nugget (available to all courses) has been updated with the new link as well.

For students, the new URL for survey access is:
https://ce2.connectedu.net/etw/crseval.asp?i=64

For faculty, the new URL for the management portal is:

We Want to Hear from You!
How Can We Better Serve DeSales?

DEIT is always striving to better serve faculty and students at DeSales University. Is there a specific topic you would like covered in one of our workshops? Is there a day and time that would work better for you to do training or an orientation? Are you interested in integrating new technology? If there's anyway we can improve your distance learning and instructional technology experience, please do not hesitate to contact DEIT or one of its staff members! We're available Monday through Saturday by calling 610.282.1100 x2290 or by emailing deit@desales.edu.

The mission of the DEIT Department is to support the effective use of technology to enhance the quality of learning & instruction in the Commonwealth and beyond in a manner consistent with our Christian humanist philosophy.

DeSales University DEIT

Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday 8:30 AM - 8:30 PM   Saturday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Trexler Library   610.282.1100 x2290   deit@desales.edu   www.desales.edu/deit