Student Response System: Go Soap Box Limited Implementation Report

Overview

Student Response Systems (SRS) have been shown to increase learner engagement, knowledge gain in peer instruction contexts, and improvements to effectiveness of teaching delivery through the capacity for participants to provide anonymous, immediate responses and feedback. The 2013 iPad initiative and broadening of the AirUWS-Lite network providing free wireless infrastructure for students, offered a promising test environment for exploring the ways in which SRS can add value in blended learning.

There are different technology options for Student Response Systems. For example:

- SlideIdea is an app that can be used to share slides with others and use interactive polls at key points.
- NearPod can be used to create questions and activities on any computer and distribute to connected student devices.
- Collaborate has Yes/No and multiple choice polling features.
- GoSoapBox can be used to ask or answer questions via a web browser or mobile device.
- Poll Everywhere audiences answer questions in real time using mobile phones, Twitter or web browsers.
- Turning Technology uses mobile devices and ‘clickers’ (special hand-held devices) to respond to questions.

Limited implementation of a SRS: GoSoapBox

During 2013, a limited implementation of GoSoapBox (GSB) system was used at UWS. GoSoapBox is a web-based service that allows participants in an ‘Event’ to use any internet-enabled device to interact with their lecturer by asking or answering questions and indicating understanding. There are both technical and pedagogical aspects to using an SRS.

Pedagogically, use of GoSoapBox at UWS was targeted toward student engagement and formative assessment. This required careful planning by academics, effectively summarised by one of the academics involved in the limited implementation of GoSoapBox as

“...somewhat of an acquired skill to come up with questions that aren’t overly complicated, but at the same time will have a range of different responses or that students are likely to get wrong. People learn from mistakes, so GSB gives us a non-threatening way to ask student simple looking but tricky questions in the hope this will engage students more for the rest of the lecture, especially if they see there is a gap in their understanding.”

Technically, use of GSB also required planning by staff as well as self-guided exploration of features and functions. Event setup information could be displayed on one screen and questions and responses for students on another provided that the staff member configured separate devices. Staff initially guided students through accessing the system, but soon just asked them to log in to complete the activities.

“- it is part of the classroom activities that we do now and they appear to be comfortable with it.”

Staff Experiences in using GoSoapBox

Staff involved in using GoSoapBox in 2013 in teaching and learning contexts were asked to provide feedback on their experience. In summary:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General feedback</th>
<th>Favourite aspects</th>
<th>Needs improvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100% of respondents have indicated GSB was easy to use</td>
<td>Most students already have an internet-enabled device – no need to purchase and maintain additional ‘clickers’. System works well from an iPad Easy to unlock polls during class or create new polls Easy to set up</td>
<td>Some staff would have liked a more regularly maintained vendor support forum. This feedback has been passed on to the vendor.</td>
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<tr>
<td>67% of 2013 Autumn respondents continued using the system in Spring</td>
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<td>71% respondents favoured GSB over the ‘clickers’</td>
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Student Experiences in using GoSoapBox

In addition to seeking staff feedback, students were also asked about their experience. In summary:

<table>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>67% of students indicated the system was Very Easy, Easy or Average to use</td>
<td>Instant feedback to lecturer about their understanding of concepts</td>
<td>None specified.</td>
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<tr>
<td>75% of students responded that their engagement in lectures where the system was used was A Lot More, Quite a Lot More or Average</td>
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<tr>
<td>67% of students felt they had A Lot, Quite a Lot or Average support when using the GSB system</td>
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Plans for using GoSoapBox in 2014

The limited implementation of GoSoapBox continues in 2014 with all schools having the opportunity to participate.

For further information


Summary

For the information of Committee members