

Unedited responses to the Learning/Course Management System Survey

Compiled by Ray Vadnais (UCI Office of Information Technology) • 9/25/2012

2.1. What did EEE do that you found particularly useful that is either not possible with your new LMS or that EEE does more easily?

- Creating more visually appealing webpages for courses Access to previous classes
- While BlackBoard can be customized and upgraded to suit the needs of any institution, and it is extremely versatile, it is incredibly buggy and much less stable than UCI's EEE. The gradebook in BlackBoard, for example, has many drop down menus (one for each score assigned to a student), but they don't always load particularly well--sometimes not at all. When the drop down menus fail, hitting the 'refresh' button when BlackBoard freezes forces the browser to return you to the homepage and you must navigate through the menus to return to where you last left off. Navigation can sometimes be cumbersome, if not frustrating. The BlackBoard management systems that I currently use are optimized for FireFox; most of the problems I encountered were with Safari and Internet Explorer. While both EEE and BlackBoard allow you to set up on-line quizzes for a class, I wish that BlackBoard had the ability to point out where students went wrong without giving complete feedback as to what the correct answer actually is. It seems a major flaw that one has the ability to offer multiple attempts at quizzes in BlackBoard, but cannot give feedback without also automatically giving the answer away. In its current incarnation, I have to inform students of what questions they got wrong manually, on a case by case basis.
- It's been too long - I don't remember the eee system. Therefore I'll just answer in terms of what moodle does well or poorly. It's difficult to email students via moodle, also I haven't been able to set up a discussion board. Another issue with the current system is the difficulty in reusing the same setup from one class to the next.
- I found it easier to combine courses on EEE than in blackboard (like lab sections). Also the gradebook in EEE is MUCH easier to use than in Blackboard (at least for multi-section courses). I never use the one in blackboard.
- I particularly like: * Multiple gradebooks * Up-to-date rosters * Integration with Rapid Return * Flexibility of simple or complex websites * The best customer service ever
- The gradebook function in EEE is much easier to use. Also, I really like that EEE gives the instructor more control. For example, the instructor can add assistants on their own (like for TAs) and can control when the website is available to students. Some versions of Blackboard do not give the instructor those controls. I also really like the sign-up sheet function and the evaluations

for EEE. Very nice! Also, much easier to duplicate classes (if you are running multiple sections) in EEE compared to Blackboard.

- In EEE, dropbox, gradebook, survey, and website manager are all more intuitive than on other LMS. I haven't seen sign-up sheet on another LMS.
- EEE links you directly to the searchable course schedule, the registrars office site, and other course websites. The way in which EEE is integrated is very convenient.
- I think EEE has a more user-friendly appearance and is easier to navigate than Blackboard. I have, however, only been using Blackboard for one semester and am not yet fully acclimated to it.
- EEE allows for the creation of a website that can have multiple settings, allow for anyone to view, just people enrolled, etc. I find blackboard to be far more limited in this regards.
- The ability to have simply designed webpages for the courses. Much more convenient than the Moodle and SPARK in my idea
- grading is much better on eee; i also like the commenting threads for group online discussions
- Every feature was intuitive and user friendly. I especially liked the easy to use website builder (which was as flexible as it was easy to use). I also thought the grading tools were easy to use and very informative to students. It seems I have to supplement all the other LMS programs I have used with other programs (e.g., to set up an online survey I have to do it through google docs).
- EEE was easier to use than Sakai. EEE was better for creating surveys. Having a public website for the class through EEE was easier than Sakai. The schedule is really crappy on Sakai.
- EEE centralizes a lot of information concerning student and instructor classes, as well as providing forums for class or student driven discussions.
- Ugh, where do I start? The EEE interface is just better all around, much more user-friendly. One big one is that there is no way to create categories in the PowerCAMPUS grade book, so you can't apply different weights to certain categories of assignments. Also, the website options are much more limited and the home pages are difficult to navigate. There is no way to create different tabs for different content and as far as I can tell all of the documents for the course are just uploaded to one big documents section without the ability to organize them so that they are easy to find.
- Dropbox! EEE allowed students to easily upload files (and batches of files), which were then name-appended, and could be downloaded for grading by the instructor. Passing files around was easy. While you can do it in Moodle, it is not nearly as clean. Overall the User Interface of Moodle is pretty horrific, particular in comparison to EEE. The Survey and Quiz tools in EEE are also more robust, or at least appear to be (but this could be an artifact of Moodle's lack of user-friendliness--EEE is so well documented, it makes it easy to use. Moodle: not so much).

- EEE is SO much more user friendly. I constantly struggled to locate things in Blackboard. The layout was not intuitive. The gradebook feature was difficult to use.
- EEE combines rosters, webpages, class email, grades, signup sheets etc in one location. EEE is also very seamless - all information is accessed by the UCnetID. Other schools sometimes have more than one 'portal' that student or class information can be accessed at. ANGEL is clunky, contrived and not tailored to the school using it. EEE has a very clear and clean interface and has tutorials for just about anything.
- customization was far easier on EEE than Blackboard that I now use
- My recollections of EEE are pretty fuzzy, and only apply to EEE as it was 8+ years ago. I'm afraid I can't recall anything in particular that EEE does better than Moodle.
- I can't remember but it may have linked directly with the students' records. Also a teacher could customize an EEE page so that it looked like a webpage
- When I was at UCI I hardly used EEE, but I did like that I could post up grades and course documents (syllabus). However, all of these features are available on the other LMS systems that I have used since. However, EEE tended to be better with posting grades than blackboard or WebCT.
- Grade entry.
- I absolutely love that EEE allows me to archive the emails that I send to my classes via the EEE system. Blackboard does not allow that. Instead I have to keep those archived in my email system (and that is constantly close to being too full). I also found the grade-entry to be much easier with EEE than with Blackboard.
- If I recall it correctly (it's been seven years...), I was able to migrate relatively well (i.e., learn my current system relatively quickly) because most functions were similar across EEE and the D2L version I use.
- EEE allowed me to freely design my own website. I was better able to organize and upload information. I also never had an issue logging in or being automatically logged out. I never had my EEE site change my settings without my consent. It is very well run and maintained.
- EEE made it very easy to contact the class list through email and message board postings. It also made managing several class lists at once simple. Gradebook has a learning curve, but its versatility is very useful.
- EEE is much better at easily allowing for exchange of files between students and instructors. Also, it is much easier to set up computer based surveys and exams/quizzes.

2.3. Conversely, what do you find particularly useful that you are able to do in your new LMS that you were unable to do (or do easily) in EEE?

- I do not know if this is something that you can do in EEE, but with BlackBoard, one has the ability to archive a course, and use the archived zip file for that course, along with all of its previous settings (content release rules and documents--Word/PowerPoint)and reload them for the next academic term. It makes getting set up very easy. For junior faculty who are teachin a course for the first time, this can come in handy when more seasoned faculty are willing to 'lend' their course content in a crunch. In some cases, textbook publishers have course cartridges that are optimized for BlackBoard and can be directly uploaded. Although I like customizing the ancillary content to my specifications, in a crunch during a very busy academic term, that can come in handy. BlackBoard's page editor also allows you to preview what the class site looks like to the student before publishing.
- The rest seems pretty similar
- While it's been too long for me to remember the capabilities of EEE, the following are some features that I like about Blackboard: 1. Having announcements posted on the course home page also emailed to students, so copies of information are available in multiple locations. 2. Discussion boards can be set up for groups, so that only subsets of the class can work together in their own environment. I also use this forum to provide an online review session before exams, but later in the evening when I don't want to return to campus. 3. The ability to grade short assignments online with immediate feedback to students. That said, Blackboard is certainly not the most streamlined environment, but since it's what we have on our campus, it does the job.
- I wish EEE had: * More options for quiz question randomization * Ability to work with a team on quiz questions * Grouping of students (though this is non-intuitive in Moodle)
- One tool that I used in Blackboard, but haven't seen on EEE, was Blogs. I wanted something secure that was accessible to my students only. The other advantage to using Blackboard blogs, instead of something like WordPress, was that I could grade blogs and put scores directly into gradebook.
- Sakai has gread design functionality built in. For example, I can design assignments using web content directly in the course site, use turn-it-in, and then link directly to the gradebook for that assignement
- In my experience I can do everything I need to do on a regular basis from both EEE and Blackboard.
- EEE does not have an option to have all dropbox submissions automatically checked with turnitin. At least, if it does, I never found it. Plagiarism detection was weak.

- Send mass emails to all students, guide on-line discussions, recommend website, books and papers on-line, put assignments on-line, post online quizzes and have them graded and place grades on line instantly. Also, keeping a gradebook that students can constantly see.
- i wish you could more easily print the comment threads
- I like that the Desire2Learn system that I currently use has TurnItIn.com integrated so that every assignment students submit to D2L is checked for plagiarism via TurnItIn.
- Since I have no experience with EEE I will summarize some of the benefits of the Blackboard system that I utilize. The main focus for my course is disseminating course materials and contacting the students. I have used the system to manage on-line quizzes and pre-lecture assignments as well. The students really like the fact that they can check their grades in mid-semester (Provided I have updated everything). Blackboard also serves as a hub for other pedagogical software such as Wimba. I have used Wimba for office hours and pre-exam reviews, though this function was not as polished as I would have liked. I have also used a Blackboard site for my research group to keep all of my research data organized. Blackboard also offers a variety of different functions such as custom discussion groups, wikispaces, blogs, etc.
- The downloading of student assignment submissions and uploading of grades is really great in Sakai.
- In Blackboard, class schedules and registration were a natural part of the environment. EEE provides a link to an external page where class registration and scheduling are maintained in separate worlds apart from the LMS.
- Using Moodle as a "course website" is slightly more feasible, though it is less like a "course website" and more like a content-management system. You can drag-and-drop powerpoint slides into a box titled "Lecture Slides," easily reorganize content, and so forth. EEE Website generator was less friendly.
- Nothing. EEE was much easier to use both as an instructor and as a student.
- My recollections of EEE are pretty fuzzy, and only apply to EEE as it was 8+ years ago. That said, new site creation for new courses seems to be easier and less time-consuming on Moodle (but that's comparing present day moodle with really old EEE, so probably not a fair comparison).
- I don't have experience with the updated version of EEE. Out of all the LMS I've used I like Canvas the best. Everything is convenient and working within the system is intuitive. Students have many options to receive updates via text, facebook, email, etc. If you are teaching an online or hybrid course you can videotape announcements if your laptop has a camera. I especially like the ePortfolio tool which allows students to create a document that follows them and not a class. Blackboard is awful! PCC bought this LMS before Canvas and the majority of the faculty voted to get rid of it after one year. WebCt was better but I think Blackboard bought them out.

- Desire2Learn tends to allow me to do more with my gradebook than I have been able to do on other LMS systems. I was able to post several grades and have it not only weight the grades but also drop the lowest assignments and include that in the calculations for the final grade. I was also able to set up dropboxes and calendars that reminded students of their assignments and due dates. Quizzes could be set up and students could be given a set amount of time to take the quiz once it was accessed. Further, D2L had an ichat feature that I really liked so that I could have online office hours.
- Designing the webpage. Being able to hide grade book leaving the balance of the website available.
- I like the "discussion board" feature on blackboard that allows students to converse with each other and work on assignments. From a faculty point of view, I also like being able to track students activities on Blackboard (e.g., whether or not they have accessed a certain document that is uploaded on the website). I'm not sure whether or not EEE contained these capabilities.
- I have found nothing in Blackboard that I can do better than I was able to do in EEE. I miss using EEE very much!
- Creating online quizzes is much easier on other LMS, however the last time I used EEE was in 2005. It allows for many more question types (multiple choice, multiple answer, fill in the blank, etc.) to be used and it is very intuitive on Blackboard. Moodle is a bit more difficult for me to use as the working is not easily interpreted.
- EEE does not do course websites very well and makes it difficult for both the instructor and student to navigate the webpage. Moodle more seamlessly integrates course files/lectures in the overall website.
- I find Blackboard extremely cumbersome to use.

Are there any specific tools or functionality that EEE lacks that you think would be particularly helpful to you if you were using EEE for teaching?

- 1) document collaboration (like a google doc) 2) Ability to export messageboard entries 3) better framing and incorporation of graphics within quiz tool
- A real time chat forum
- I can list twenty of them. But for now: * Web conferencing * Correct quiz key while quiz is open, or re-grade all after it closes * Anonymous peer grading * Blog format option for course website * Automatic integration with clickers * Improve student profile to add clicker #, blog URL, special seating requests

- Orange Coast College's Blackboard has a tool called OSCELOT Photo Roster that allows you to see a picture of each student (I think based off the student's ID card photo). This is really helpful for when you are trying to remember a particular student.
- Quiz is one of the tools that I use the most for working with 400+ students at a time. The interface is intuitive, but a few things that would be nice to help reduce cheating: - the ability to randomize distractors for some questions (sometimes the distractors can't be randomized, such as when one of the answers is "none of the above"). - the ability to assign questions from 2 or 3 different pools of questions (e.g. everyone gets 2 easy, 2 med and 1 hard question, but not necessarily the same ones). - the ability to regrade multiple choice questions after finding an error on the answer key. - other options for organizing quiz questions in my library, such as associating them with a particular class or lecture. - state a recommended size for adding images to questions (pixels, dpi).
- There are a lot of free cloud computing tools that would facilitate multi-person interaction in an educational setting. These range from shared Google Docs, to educational YouTube videos, to class wikis/websites, to interactive bulletin boards, and so forth. One I will mention specifically are multi-person video chat applications like Google Hangouts, which some schools are using to conduct online office hours. Computer technology in education is undergoing explosive changes and I fear that entrenched technology will be left behind. In my opinion, public universities like UCI should take advantage of free technologies offered by companies like Google. Greater than 2/3 of the top 100 U.S. universities have switched over to Gmail which is a much better and cheaper communications hub than uci-mail. Mobile devices (smartphones and tablets) represent another potential powerful educational tool that can be exploited with the proper technology.
- Creating assignments directly in the course site.
- link to clickers and clicker-based quizzes
- It has been such a while that I used eee that I can't comment on that
- I am rooting for such a system to be used in my institution. I think EEE provided such a freedom that others do not.
- Not particularly. I personally think EEE and other such systems are not very useful for most courses. They may be useful for University of Phoenix-type institutions, but not for proper universities.
- EEE has a variety of tools already available.
- It depends if the question is targeting online teaching or online course management, which are very different. As an online course management tool EEE is very good. To use EEE for online teaching many other modules would have to be added such as video/audio live streaming, live chatting, etc. I used Adobe Connect to teach a course online and that tool had everything I needed for online teaching but not course management.

- EEE already provides a broad set of tools and functionalities, although sometimes they can be difficult to locate. For instance, I had trouble learning how to properly use the file storage and distribution system. This was due to the several steps it took me to find the appropriate area.
- Not sure if these are presently available or not, but: Timed assessment, both in terms of delivery and allotted minutes for a student once starting a quiz or test. Imagine Respondus' Lock Down Browser (<http://www.respondus.com/products/lockdown-browser/>) but more user friendly. A user-friendly test bank, with question coding options, random question selection among similarly grouped concepts, map to learning outcomes. Online video chat options a la Google Hangout I have found the Purdue Studio learning tools to be very helpful (<http://www.itap.purdue.edu/studio/>) especially Hotseat, Dropbox and Mixable. Classroom response system integration, either through an API or .csv upload (though an application would be much better) Video lecture integration, maybe some sort of calendar feature that would provide all content for students during a particular week.
- The ability to automatically score questionnaires that have several categories (i.e. questionnaire assesses different domains, want EEE to be able to calculate a students' score in each separate domain)
- I'm not sure if this would be an EEE tool or not, but now that I use podcasts extensively I would like to know who is watching them, when and how often.
- A built in video player. I sometimes have video files (e.g. 1-2 minute animations and narrated videos) that are too huge for students to download if I uploaded them to the class website. At the same time, these videos aren't found on the internet (so I can't just paste a a url). It would be nice to be able to post a video to the class website that the students can just click play for. I dont know if this function already exists.
- integration to turnitin
- One complaint I have about the current LMS - which may also apply to EEE - is the super-strict format with which quiz question banks have to be created. It makes the process of creating online quizzes extremely slow and labor intensive. Thus, flexibility with question format is important for me to use the system more.
- I never used forums/discussion boards on EEE, however I do enjoy using them now as I have my students create PPTs and upload them for the class to see. It also allows students to turn in assignments digitally to reduce paper waste and have a time stamp on most assignments. The Moodle and Blackboard LMS also link to Turnitin which is very useful. Student can also peer edit and grading has become much easier and faster through Turnitin. The Turnitin rubric feature is great and easy to use. It also automatically uploads the grades that you have entered.

Is there anything else you'd like us to know about your experience with EEE?

- I missed EEE when I when left UCI. It was a very stable environment for uploading documents, contacting students, and setting up assessments.
- In general I liked it pretty well.
- The EEE support staff has been speedy, patient, and always kind. They've even helped me collect research data. Hard to believe any other LMS would provide the same.
- I have really enjoyed using EEE. Very user friendly!
- EEE is the best!!
- I enjoyed my experience with EEE; the tools helped me immensely. My comments above note that the technology landscape is changing dramatically especially with the rise of online university classes offered by some of the top universities in the World.
- I found EEE extremely easy and functional.
- The most effective tool I found was having a teaching experience filmed and then having feedback about it afterwards.
- I really like Blackboard even though the new version of it is rather cumbersome.
- Change EEE for better, don't replace it with anything else.
- I LOVE EEE. I rave about it to everyone! I wish I were still using it - the other LMS programs are far inferior.
- I wish professors at UCI would stop forcing TAs and students to use EEE. It really is a hassle and it makes learning impersonal and static. If I wanted to take an "online" course, I could just watch videos on Youtube (many schools including Harvard post their lectures there) and take exams on Quizyourfriends.
- I think EEE has a variety of tools and functions already, but their use can be non-intuitive, The file management system for uploading and downloading was difficult for me to grasp at first.
- Here are some points I would consider in selecting a course management system.... It must have a usable interface that is easy for faculty to custmize for their own purposes. It should have all of the basics such as places to post documents, assignments, grades (be sure its secure), and make it easy to contact students (and set up student groups). If any departments are already using an on-line homework system, it is nice if it works seamlessly with the LMS you select (This could be part of a different survey for departments at UCI)
- I thought EEE was intuitive to use and easy to learn. As a TA this is important as you don't have that much time to figure it out before the course has started.

- I used eee infrequently, so I have little to add.
- Overall I was pleased with my experience using EEE. I could not say that I preferred one LMS to the other.
- EEE was so solid, and I loved the public feature of being able to find other courses and syllabi. The file management system was a bit clunky, but for early oos, it was outstanding. Stability was fantastic, so please retain that. I liked the absence of pretty photos, I think Blackboard sacrifices search-ability and quick interpretation of links for a sharp look. No need to do that when you aren't selling a product.
- I <3 EEE. I didn't realize how awesome it was until I had to use something else...
- EEE is infinitely better than Blackboard. Also, I would like to give a big thank you to whoever developed the new ability to add assistants to multiple sections by uploading a spreadsheet. You just saved me hours of work!
- It felt more intuitive, far more intuitive than Blackboard
- I thought it worked well.
- I had zero experience with EEE when at UCI.
- Honestly, EEE is superior to the other systems I have used!
- My overall experience with EEE years ago was good. I figure that it has evolved today to make things more customizable and to include more up to date tools for professors including a dropbox and discussion boards.
- EEE is more user friendly. I needed no training to be up and running with a website and gradebook established with EEE - however with both Moodle and Blackboard I required training (either a class or tutorials on line).
- EEE must have started after I left UCI. I'm not in the field of teaching anymore, and thus I am not familiar with learning management systems.
- EEE has been my favorite LMS thus far. I never had many major issues where I have had many issues using Moodle and Blackboard. I really prefer making my own website over using a pre-made websites. As I teach biology courses, it is easier to show a figure than to add files. Also there are no limites on file size. I could basically add anything I want to EEE where I have limits, or lack to patients to wait for the upload time, on other systems. It is also much faster than all other LMSs. Keep up the great work.
- Every LMS has pros and cons and a learning curve associated with it. I thought that EEE served my purposes very well. Given the further stress on online teaching and resources, the lack of a streamlined and easy to use website is a real handicap.

- Being able to access information, such as past teaching evaluations, is extremely helpful.