Exploring the UofA’s instructional technology environment as supported by the Office of Instruction and Assessment.

Mission Statement

In addition to supporting traditional face-to-face instruction, the Office of Instruction and Assessment’s Technical Group strengthens the University of Arizona’s instructional mission by supporting the University community in the exploration, development, application and refinement of technologies to enhance teaching, learning, instructional development, and outreach.

What We Do

The Technical Group staff takes great pride in providing exceptional resources and support to all those engaged in instructional activities at The University of Arizona. We help instructors explore and apply appropriate uses of technology in the instructional process and collaboratively work to create engaging and innovative learning environments for students.

We provide consultation, support and production services to those in the University community doing instruction-related work.

- **Instructional Design & Consulting:** We can help you move elements of your current curriculum online, help create new curricula and develop instructional strategies and processes -- strategies based on solid learning and instructional theory to achieve your instructional goals. See us to create viable distance-learning spaces.

- **Support:** We provide orientations, presentations, tutorials, research and resource materials, grant support, technical help and a well-equipped client work area. Our staff is available whenever need arises in the course of planning, delivering and evaluating technology and teaching.

- **Production:** We design, create, develop and manage learning environments and activities, digital objects, learning objects, graphical representations, audio & video, website design, and assessment and evaluation strategies. We can modify existing things or create new ones—whatever best suits the client.
Instructional Assessment & Evaluation: We offer a wide range of support services for evaluating instructional modules, courses, programs and products, and assessing learning outcomes in face-to-face, blended and fully distance learning environments. Although our primary focus is on computer-based instruction, we also support the use of computer-based technologies for assessment and evaluation in any course, including conventional face-to-face instruction.

We invite you to explore how our services and support might be incorporated into your course. We look forward to working with you to transform your ideas into effective instructional strategies that optimize learning opportunities for students. Some specific technologies which might be considered include:

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UA on iTunes U provides access to a wide range of UA digital audio and video content via the iTunes Store. Many of the podcasts that were available through the Learning Technology Center’s Podcasting at the UA website are included in the UA on iTunes U. Since announcing the UA on iTunes U more members of the campus community have begun podcasting. For example, the UA Phoenix Mars Mission, the College of Engineering and the College of Law are adding outstanding content regularly.

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Library Resource Organizer (LRO) is a UA Libraries tool that allows you to easily create customized course guides integrating library resources for the classes you are teaching. You pick what your students need! Course guides offer you an easy way to ensure your students have the library resources they need, available anytime, anywhere.
Blogs

Description:
Instructional blogging turns passive participants into active participants. Blog templates make it easy for both students and faculty to publish to the Web. Blogging offers excellent opportunities for faculty to provide direct feedback to students and for students to read and comment on each other's entries.

Key Advantages

- Provides a greater sense of community
- Allows for extended discussions
- Student collaboration is facilitated
- Instructor-student communications is enhanced
- Direct feedback to students is easier

Key Features

- Blogs are easy to use
- There’s no need to know HTML to publish to an attractive Web page
- Faculty and students can comment on each other’s entries
- Blogs can incorporate images and links to Web pages and other documents (i.e., spreadsheets, word processing documents)

Innovative Uses

- A nursing professor uses a class blog as a place for students to present clinical experiences
- An art appreciation instructor uses the blog to incorporate visuals with text discussions
- An MIS professor uses student blogs as a way to address questions outside of class and use class meetings for more complex issues
- Professors from a wide array of disciplines use blogs to discuss course readings in graduate seminars
- A Freshman Composition instructor uses blogs for students to learn how to provide constructive criticism to other students and give them feedback on their prose
- A campus department promoted a sense of community by using a blog to feature its students, many of whom were enrolled in virtual programs

Getting Started
Blogging @ the OIA: Best Practices & Case Studies

Request more information from an OIA Consultant

Contact: Stuart Glogoff
D2L

Description:
Desire2Learn (D2L) is a Web-based course management system offering teaching and learning tools for course development, delivery and management. D2L provides the flexibility to control the environment to match your own unique approach to teaching and learning. It provides tools to help facilitate communication, collaboration and community building among students and faculty.

Key Advantages
For instructors:

- Allows you to create course sites that include state-of-the-art instructional resources
- Allows you to develop an online learning environment that encourages student interaction and collaboration
- Allows you to efficiently manage and coordinate administrative tasks, freeing up classroom time for more teaching and learning activities

For students:

- Allows access to course materials anytime, anywhere
- Allows collaboration with other students
- Allows students to engage in course-related activities in a single environment
- Teaches students new technology skills

Key Features

- Content area where you can easily organize learning activities, reading materials, assignment instructions and other instructional resources for access by students
- Discussion board where you and students can discuss course-related material and respond to reflective questions posed by you
- Electronic gradebook that calculates grades in a points or weighted system and where posted grades can be accessed by students anytime, anywhere
- Quizzing tool where you select a variety of quiz formats and control access by dates, times, number of attempts and presentation of questions

Innovative Uses
Innovations for some course related functions:

- A history instructor uses the chat feature in D2L to conduct a role playing exercise in which students assume the role of an assigned historical character and participate in an online chat
• A course director utilizes D2L for a large course in which multiple sections of the same course are taught by different teaching assistants. The director creates a master course and then copies the components of the master course to each of the section sites, ensuring standardization of curriculum across all sections of the course
• A graduate course instructor utilizes D2L to house a variety of digital video and audio files which students access with the Content tool and then discuss with the Discussion tool
• A course director in science utilizes the auto-grading feature of the Quiz tool to deliver homework to students in a very large course, eliminating the need for printing paper copies or manual grading of the completed assignments

Innovations for some non-course related functions:

• Using the Quiz tool, one campus department uses a D2L course site to conduct placement tests for assignment of students into the appropriate level course in the program
• A UA department uses a D2L course site as an advising center in which advisors can communicate with students, post forms and resources for students to access, and keep confidential records of advising activities and appointments
• Several UA departments use D2L course sites to offer continuing professional education courses to professionals in the general public

Getting Started
Decide early on what your uses will be. There are a lot of tools available to D2L users but most must be planned for. So, first get familiar with D2L capabilities. Know what you want before requesting a course as each layer you add to your D2L course requires planning and implementation. Select how little or how much you want to use and how you will use it. Will it be a stand-alone course, used to supplement classroom learning or a blended course? What materials (content) will you put online? E-reserves? PDFs? How involved will the materials be: audio or video? Will you use the Grade book, quizzing, drop boxes, discussions, live chat, glossary, FAQs or check lists?

To request a D2L course, complete the Course Request Form.

Contact: Mark Felix
**Elluminate**

Description:

Elluminate is a collaborative synchronous web conferencing system which allows moderators and participants to share voice, video, text, images, whiteboard, chat, and desktop applications. Elluminate is good for online learning, meetings, conferences, workshops and on-demand presentations.

- Anyone with a UANetID can create and manage their own meetings.

Key Features

- Share applications, websites, images, PowerPoints and documents.
- Whiteboard
- Record, capture, and playback Elluminate sessions.
- Gather real-time feedback through polls and quizzes.
- Breakout meeting rooms for small group discussions and collaboration.
- Manage and create online rooms from D2L for easy access to sessions and recordings.

Example Uses

1. Students and faculty don’t need to be in the same location at the same time in order to conduct a class or office hours.
2. A cost effective way to "bring in" a guest speaker.
3. The polling tool can be used as a classroom clicker or responder tool.
4. Record a meeting for students who missed a class or need to review.
5. Facilitate class meetings and student group meetings across diverse geographic locations.
6. Use the chat feature to create more engaging discussions.
7. Students can use Elluminate to work on group projects.

There are two ways to create/manage meetings in Elluminate.

1) If you are an instructor using D2L, you can create Online Rooms for your class and students. For more information go to [http://help.d2l.arizona.edu/instructors/online_rooms](http://help.d2l.arizona.edu/instructors/online_rooms)

2) Anyone with a UANetID can create and manage Elluminate Live meetings/sessions.

(For classes, we recommend you create a single meeting space with a single start and end date for the duration of the semester and reuse the url, rather than create a new url for each meeting)
Help:
If you would like assistance in brainstorming instructional applications for Elluminate in your course(s) or would like a general introduction to Elluminate then please contact Wayne Brent, wbrent@arizona.edu

If you or your students have technical difficulties with getting your computer connected to a meeting space then please call 866-388-8674 and select option 2. If you are outside the US and need technical assistance call 703-956-3812. Elluminate provides technical support for their products.

Elluminate Publish
Elluminate Publish! creates portable, reusable learning content from Elluminate Live! session recordings as industry-standard movie and audio files or standalone multimedia recordings, all of which can be viewed without an Internet connection. All licensed users can download Elluminate Publish! from http://www.elluminate.com/publish/info.jsp

Right Click and Save As this Elluminate Publish! key, to download the key to your desktop. And when you run publish, it will ask you for this key, so you will have to select it from your desktop.

There is online help and documentation on how to use Publish on the Elluminate.com website.

You will be asked to register your use of Elluminate Publish!. The registration process provides Elluminate with contact information so that they can notify you when updated versions of their products are available and allows them to provide you with technical product information. Lastly and very importantly, the license of Publish! includes licensing that Elluminate has paid for the use of certain patented technologies and file formats. While Elluminate has paid the associated royalties and included them in your purchase, only registered users are covered by the licensing agreement with the patent holders.

As of now, Publish does not work with the newest Mac OS 10.6 (Snow Leopard) or Windows 7.

Elluminate Plan

Right Click and Save As this Elluminate Plan! key, to download the key to your desktop. And when you run plan, it will ask you for this key, so you will have to select it from your desktop.

You will be asked to register your use of Elluminate Plan!. The registration process provides Elluminate with contact information so that they can notify you when updated versions of our products are available and provide you with technical product information.
Podcasting

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Podcasting has enormous educational uses. According to EDUCAUSE’s The Horizon Report –2006, podcasting, is “at the leading edge of a wave that will last for the next several years and beyond.” Instructional podcasts can include class lectures, presentations, material complementary to course content, and student reviews for exams. Podcasts work equally well on both Macs and PCs, and do not require having an iPod or other MP3 device to work.

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Key Advantages
For instructors:

- Podcasting has little or no costs associated with it
- If you are teaching a distance course, podcasting will connect you in new ways to your students
- Faculty can make special podcasts in which they highlight course content that they want students to master. This can be especially helpful to students studying for exams

For students:

- Podcasting has little or no costs associated with it
- Podcasting enables students to learn outside the classroom
- Students can listen to your podcasts on-the-go by syncing your podcasts to their iPods and playing through their car radio or listening as they walk across campus. In addition, some cell phones now come MP3-enabled

Key Features

- Podcasts can be subscribed to, and played on, an individual’s computer using free, readily available software
- Students can podcast course exercises and assignments
- Podcasting takes advantage of small, easy-to-use devices that people already carry to capture and share personal experiences
Innovative Uses

- A professor in Soil, Water & Environmental Sciences is podcasting reviews for exams
- A professor in Near Eastern Studies is podcasting her lectures
- A professor in the School of Information Resources & Library Science creates weekly podcasts that complement course content, introduces new material, and reviews relevant information from professional literature
- A physician in the Department of Pediatrics has begun “pediatric podcasts” as a curriculum on general pediatric topics relevant to the Continuity Clinic experience

Getting Started
What is the UA on iTunes U, UA on iTunes U FAQ, Best Practices for Uploading Tracks to iTunes U, OIA's Podcasting website
**UA iTunes U**

**Description:**

iTunes U is a featured section in Apple Computer's iTunes Store. Along with its for-fee content, Apple provides access to tens of thousands of free educational resources through iTunes U. In January 2010, there were approximately 250 colleges and universities from North America and Europe providing audio and video tracks that may be viewed and/or downloaded to one's computer. In addition to colleges and universities, there are approximately 100 museums, historical societies, archives and K-12 schools also involved. The content is exceptional.

To access the UA's public iTunes U public site, go to [itunes.arizona.edu](http://itunes.arizona.edu) and click on the blue button to open your computer's copy of Apple's free iTunes software. This takes you to the UA's iTunes U main page. If you do not have a copy of iTunes, you will be prompted to connect to Apple's website to download and install it.

Our UA iTunes U installation provides access to a wide range of UA digital audio and video content. Some of the UA's most popular public lectures are featured, such as the College of Science lecture series, Steward Observatory public evening lecture series, Department of Linguistics invited speakers lectures, UA News PodCats, and course lectures. Our participation is truly an outstanding part of the UA's outreach efforts to the State. In addition to the UA's public iTunes U site we have a private iTunes U site. The private site is used when course content must be restricted to only students in the class, such as courses at the College of Medicine.

As described in our [Podcasting section](#), faculty and instructors can record their course lectures and make them available to students on iTunes U. Faculty doing this report that their students are enormously appreciative - and they are not cutting classes. OIA's Web Development and Emerging Technologies Team provides digital recording devices for faculty interested in capturing their lectures for iTunes U or can connect you with staff who will create workflow that simplifies lecture capture.

[Web Development & Emerging Technologies](#)

Contact: [Stuart Glogoff](#)
Library Resource Organizer (LRO)

Description: The Library Resource Organizer (LRO) is a UA Libraries tool that allows you to easily create customized course guides integrating library resources for the classes you are teaching. You pick what your students need! Course guides offer you an easy way to ensure your students have the library resources they need, available anytime, anywhere!

Course guides can be easily edited, updated, and adapted or reused each semester; the guides are tied to specific courses and instructors, so your guides can emphasize the research resources most meaningful to your students.

What do I do with the Library Resource Organizer?

Create custom library guides for your class
- Modify, adapt and reuse your guide as you wish
- Include library or external content including:
  - Databases
  - Tutorials
  - Books and ebooks
  - Other content from anywhere online
- Automatically links from your D2L page OR you can provide a direct link to your students

How do I get started?
- Begin at https://lro.library.arizona.edu
- Set up your account using your NetID
- Create your guide, select and organize your resources
- Publish your guide

Want help? A librarian can collaborate with you on your guide to help select the best resources - asklro@email.arizona.edu

Contact the LRO Team at asklro@email.arizona.edu - for more information we look forward to hearing from you!