

Learning Bytes: Session 4: Tues 22 June, 13:15-14:15

How can I automatically mark in class quizzes?

This session comprised two demonstrations of different voting pad technologies given by:

- Cath Ellis, Course Coordinator: School of Music, Humanities and Media and recently appointed National Teaching Fellow, and
- Steve Bentley, Learning Technology Advisor: School of Applied Sciences.

Demonstration 1: Cath Ellis

Cath explained the importance of considering the pedagogical benefits of using a technology prior to building it into the teaching and learning environment. The two key aims when using a learning technology are to:

- improve the quality of the learning experience of the students
- increase the efficiency of the delivery of teaching and learning.

The interactive demonstration used Quizdom voting pad handsets alongside Action Point software.



Participants took part in a 'How British are you?' quiz which Cath had prepared in advance. A variety of answer options were included for example, multiple choice, text input, multiple answer, number input, True/False etc.

Once the quiz was completed the data was automatically harvested in the form of an XML file and Sue Folley imported the raw data into an Excel spreadsheet. The data comprised individual participant's answers; an automated process can be set up to provide each participant with individual feedback on their performance. Group results can also be viewed via graphs to provide an overview of the group's responses.

Cath indicated that she had used the voting pads in a variety of situations, although they are primarily designed to give interactive feedback in lectures and other group situations they can be used more imaginatively. The voting pads themselves are fairly intuitive to use, with students taking to them quickly and responding positively. In large classes students' can share handsets and work in small groups. Efficiencies can be gained by using in-class quizzes as the data is automatically harvested and doesn't have to be gathered in and input manually.

Cath recommended that anyone using the voting pads for the first time would benefit from some help and instruction; and said it was best to build up to full 'live' full summative assessment.

Music, Humanities and Media have a set of the 'Quizdom' handsets which colleagues may borrow to trial. More information about these voting pads can be found at <http://www.qwizdom.co.uk>

Demonstration 2: Steve Bentley

Steve's demonstration used Activote handsets, made by Promethean which can be used with the Promethean Interactive Whiteboards.



Active studio is the software that comes with the handsets; captured data can be exported to Excel or Notepad for analysis and feedback. Steve has found that setting questions is relatively straightforward, libraries of questions can be saved for reuse and ad hoc questions can be included quickly and easily. The voting pads can be used to survey opinions in class and have been used in the School to help students revise prior to exams, which they found useful. These voting pad handsets did not allow for text input, and used normal batteries, rather than having inbuilt rechargeable ones, so that may be in issue. They were very simple to use though. More information about these voting pads can be found at <http://www.prometheanworld.com/server.php?show=nav.15999>