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PUSHING VISTABLACKBOARD BEYOND ITS CLOSED WORLD

A BIT ABOUT ME

- **×** Engineer First, then Architect
 - + Practiced 9 years with own firm
- At Drexel 20 years
 - + Head of Architectural Engineering (AE) Program
 - + Teach AE Design
 - + Focus is on education NOT online
 - × I'm halfway between Jean-Claude Bradley & Traditional
 - × I believe that something important happens face-to-face
 - + Tech-enthusiast
 - But it has to be useful not just cool
 - + Regular VistaBlackboard User

WHAT WE'LL DO

- VistaBlackboard (VBB)"closed"
 - + Why that's good
 - + What are the limitations
- How can one extend VBB 3 ways
- * Three courses in which I extend VBB
- Tools that allow me to extend VBB
- **×** Conclusions

HOW VISTABB IS CLOSED

- The primary model for VBB is a "course"
 - + It has (usually) a duration
 - There are techniques to extend it but sacrifices in doing so
 - + It always has an enrollment
- × VBB requires a login
 - + Only those who are registered may see the material
- Material created (or submitted) within VBB is locked within the system

WHY A CLOSED SYSTEM GOOD

× Control

+ Requiring logon and ID allows "permissions" and control of what and when can be seen.

Privacy

- + There is much sensitive material in VBB
 - × Student submissions
 - × Grades
 - × Instructor comments

THE LIMITATIONS OF A CLOSED SYSTEM

- Material produced by students and instructors in course does not carry over
 - + It's also not visible to those outside the course
- If one uses an outside tool (e.g. Google Docs) one has to leave the VBB world

WHAT I DO WITH VISTABB

- + Use it as it's intended happily
 - × Courses
 - New Faculty Community
- + Use workarounds to address the limitations
 - × How to carry over material
 - * External database + submit Info in VistaBB
 - × How to incorporate external tool
 - ★ Blog via RSSInclude

SOME COURSES I TEACH

- × AE-Design AE-390, 391 for Juniors
- New Faculty Community 2009-10
- Intelligent Buildings AE-510 Juniors & Seniors

Edit Formula for: Grade

AE DESIGN - AE-390, 3

To create a formula for a calculated column, use the functions, n within your formula, use parentheses. As you create your formula When you have finished creating your formula, click Save.

((([A1]+[A2]+[A6]+[A1aTwk]+[A2 tm]+[A3 Tm]+[A4 Tm]+[A5 Tm])*1)+([A3]+[A4]+[A5])*2)/9.25

- **×** Dissemination
 - + Detailed syllabus and assignments
- Grading
 - + Gradebook
 - × Spreadsheet to make updating cumulative grade easy
 - Download to calculate final grade
 - + Return detailed comments via attachment
- Use <u>external Database</u> for sharing URLs
 - + Have students look at past work for guidance
 - × Change requirements somewhat each time

NEW FACULTY COMMUNITY 2009-10

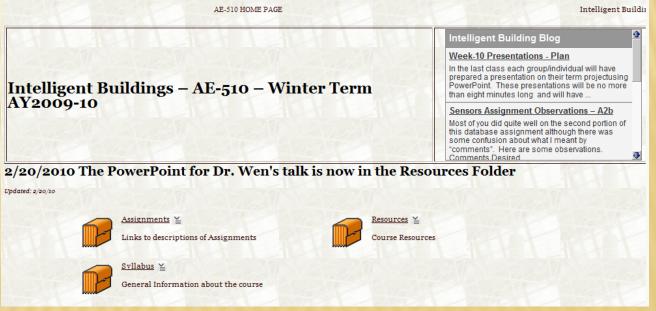
- × Discussions
- Blog via Blogger



- Sad Realities
 - Faculty were generally "too busy" to use VistaBB
 - Faculty don't subscribe to Blog
 - Change to Listserv worked better
 - Despite my opinion that Listserv is archaic

INTELLIGENT BUILDING - AE-510

- Dissemination & Grading
- Graded Discussion Highly successful
 - + Use Grading Forms splendid device
- Blog via Blogger



MATRIX OF TOOLS

Tool	Learning Time	Time to use	Prime benefit	Where I Use
External Database	•5 min for students•30 min for me	•1 min students •1 min grader	•Carry over student work	•Student projects
Blog	•5 min for students•1 hour for me	•1 min students •Writing time for me	Extended commentsViewable by wider world	•General feedback •To make easier to follow
<u>RSSInclude</u>	1 min for students15 min for me	•1 min students •0 min for me	•See blog in VistaBB	•Increasing use in all courses
Google Forms – (Not directly VBB extension)	1 min for students ½ hour for me	•<5min (goal in design) •½ hour/form – typical	RapidfeedbackLink from blog	•Classes for formative assessment

EDUCATIONAL GOALS

- Continuity
 - + Learn from colleagues in course (competition)
 - Learn from predecessors (scaffolding)
- * Feedback
 - + Extended comments addressing widespread issues
 - + Share with colleagues

TOOLS

* Let's look at these tools in detail

BLOG

- * Extended text that is:
 - + Formatted well
 - + Ordered
 - × Time newest first
 - + Searchable
 - × Tags
 - × Text
 - + Subscribable via "reader"

RSS INCLUDE

- Service that creates "code" that will put blog in a box on any web page
- Easy & Free
- Use "Header" on VBB home page



ONLINE DB

- Use it like any website
 - + Students submit URL and description
 - + Students also submit URL as assignment in VBB
- Update it via secure administration
- Creating the DB took effort
 - + Initially I created it myself
 - Drexel then decided to take it over took several months

GOOGLE DOCS

- I'm pushing the limits to include it as a VBB expansion
 - + It's really separate
 - + I incorporate it by link from blog or home page
- × How I use it
 - + Shared spreadsheet during class periods, edited by students from their computers
 - + Quick Surveys primarily for formative info

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CONCLUSIONS

- * Most of us can use these with minimal effort
 - + Database definitely takes longer
- Opens up VBB
 - + Material can carry over
 - + Material can be shared beyond a specific class
- × It's fun