Quizzing Working Group Recommendation Report Update - Phase 2

June 2, 2017

The Learn@UW-Madison Executive Committee is sponsoring working groups to address two main functional gap areas in Canvas, as compared to Moodle and D2L. The gaps involve quizzing capabilities and content authoring tool functionality. The groups made recommendations at the end of 2016 with the plan to continue their research into spring semester of 2017.

The working group focused on quizzing conducted a pilot with three UW-Madison courses using Maple T.A., an online testing tool for courses involving mathematics. In all three pilots, the instructors found the question types, equation editor and the student user interface to sufficiently meet their quizzing needs. However, issues around Maple T.A.'s Learning Tools Interoperability (LTI) were uncovered and subsequently reported to the vendor, MapleSoft.

MapleSoft has committed to fixing the identified issues over the summer. To ensure the fixes to Maple T.A. meet campus's needs, group members are working closely with MapleSoft this summer and another pilot will occur during the fall 2017 semester. In the event that Maple T.A. is not sufficiently updated, the working group recommends pursuing alternative options by piloting OHM (MyOpenMath by Lumen Learning) in fall 2017 and Learnosity in spring 2017.

If you would like to participate in these pilots, please contact Hannah Kinley (hkinley@wisc.edu) by June 30, 2017, and encourage other interested colleagues to do so as well.

For non-STEM courses, further research was conducted and the next generation Canvas quizzing engine (slated for release later this summer) appears to meet a majority of the initially identified gaps. One need of non-STEM courses which is not covered in the planned quizzing engine improvements is A/V recording questions. Separate testing and a possible pilot will be conducted this fall to investigate the use of the legacy quizzing engine in Canvas for language placement exams.

Additional research will be completed by winter 2017, and more information will be made available at that time.

We wish to express our appreciation for the members of the Quizzing Working Group: Saundra Solum (co-lead), Mike Litzkow (co-lead), Erica J. Hagen, Billy Kardasz, Matthew Petro, Jonathan Klein, Nicole Olthafer (project manager), Antonella Caloro, Lindsey Schmidt.

Elizabeth Harris (Canvas Co-Concept Owner)
Brian McNurlen (Canvas Co-Concept Owner)