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Printing from UCLA's Learning Management System, Moodle

Wēpa serves student needs with a new LMS integration

Student printing made easy

BACKGROUND

Saving staff time

"Printing is a huge pain everywhere," explains Nick Thompson, CCLE Coordinator at UCLA. One of the most common pain points at universities is wasted man hours. "I was having talented engineers troubleshooting paper jams. It was incredibly frustrating."

Dawn Canfield was experiencing similar struggles as the IT Manager for the Department of Psychology and reached out to Wēpa for a vendor print solution, thus initiating the installation of Wēpa kiosks in multiple departments. "Our IT staff members are now able to focus on providing new services to the department, rather than getting mired in day-to-day print operations," she says.

Thompson points out that staff no longer has to handle payments for student printing, and that automated notices from sensors inside the kiosks make restocking easier.

There were other immediate plusses to cloud printing. "I like that students don't have to take up a seat at the computer lab in order to print," says Canfield. "Valuable computer lab space can be used by more people now."

> "I don't know of any other print solution that is willing to do those kinds of integrations."
>
> – Nick Thompson, CCLE Coordinator at UCLA

REQUIREMENT

LMS integration: the missing use case

The Wēpa cloud print kiosks allow for students to print via email, USB drive, and a variety of cloud storage systems, but a key student resource was missing: learning management systems.

Because UCLA students use Moodle for course information, quizzes, homework, and more, integrating the LMS with Wēpa seemed only natural. Thompson realized that some incumbent kiosks for viewing course calendars could be replaced by Wēpa kiosks with the added functionality. Meanwhile Canfield had invited Wēpa to demo the kiosk interface at a UCLA-hosted tech vendor fair. That demo included an icon for printing from Moodle, the very same LMS that UCLA's own CCLE runs on. Wēpa was on the hunt for schools that wanted to help pilot new integrations with commonly used LMSs.

Bruin Print stations are located where students need them most

CHALLENGE

Creating the integration

Wēpa created a functional integration with Moodle just a couple months after it was decided that UCLA would be the pilot university. This allowed for an early round of feedback. While the initial integration was functional, the user experience was lacking. "One of the challenges was how do you present the interface so it's a consistent look and feel with all the other systems you have available like Box or Google Drive," explains Thompson.

After an additional, longer round of development, Wēpa was able to smooth out the user experience in terms of interface appearance and the sign-in process. Each student need only authenticate their various systems once. "It's as easy as you swipe your BruinCard and you have access to all of your resources, whether that be your class roster, your LMS, or your Google Drive," says Thompson.

"Students can grab study materials provided on their course websites very quickly and take them to a study group, a tutoring session, or to lunch on the lawn."

– Dawn Canfield, IT Manager for the Department of Psychology at UCLA

Students can now access all course files directly from Moodle

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RESULT

All student resources in one seamless interface

"Students can grab study materials provided on their course websites very quickly and take them to a study group, a tutoring session, or to lunch on the lawn," says Canfield of the ability to print from Moodle, noting that even in the digital age, paper remains important because it has no "noise" like ads or messages.

"We've been telling everyone about Wēpa and how they've integrated with Moodle," says Thompson.

BENEFIT

Expanding what's possible at each university

UCLA went from having engineers troubleshoot minor print issues to working with a vendor that assists in development. "I don't know of any other print solution that is willing to do those kinds of integrations," notes Thompson. "They ran their own instance of Moodle; we haven't had to do anything. Wēpa could have said we need you do to this part. They could've sucked up a lot of our time to help with this integration."

But by focusing on the needs of individual universities and then solving them with technologies that can be expanded to other schools, Wēpa developers are able to bring an agile approach to printing that benefits administrators and students throughout the network.

REQUEST A DEMO

"Wēpa solved printing. We can't do it better than them."

– Nick Thompson, CCLE Coordinator at UCLA

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