Teaching Natural Resource Economics with Digital Learning Objects: Evolution from Chalk to Digital Ink

Digital Learning Object (DLO)

 A learning object is defined by IEEE as "any entity, digital or non-digital, that may be used for learning, education or training"

History of Online Delivery at UTM

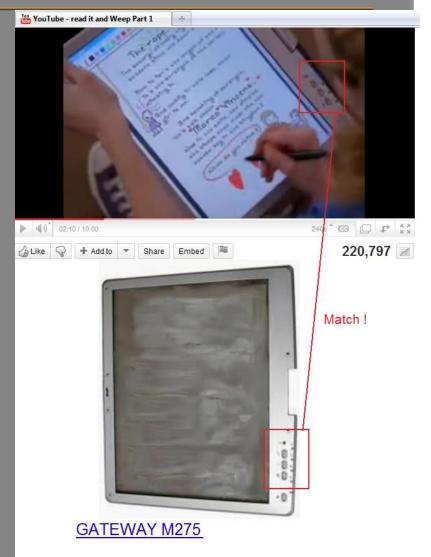
8 year search for a "good" tool.Voice recording Solutions

- Camtasia Studio
- Adobe Presenter
- Echo 360
- What is missing?

 Question: How can we develop a traditional chalkboard experience for students?

Pen Solutions

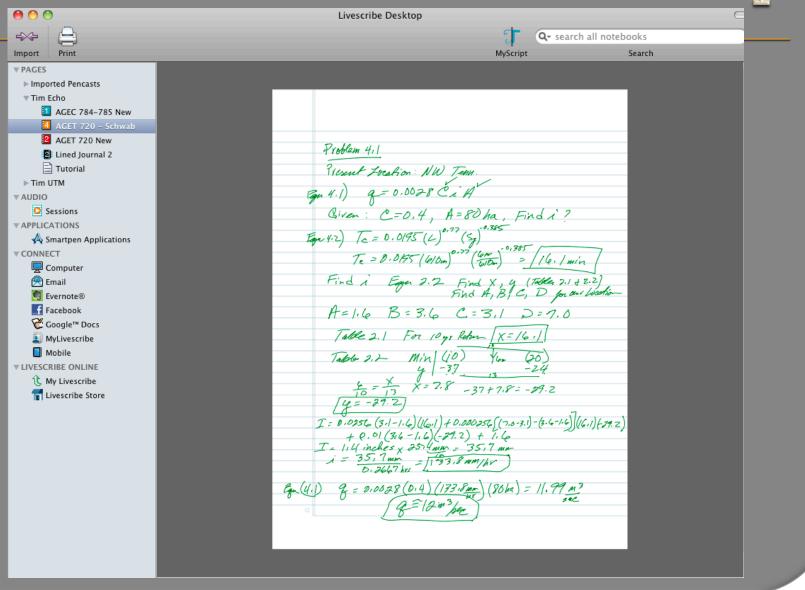
- Tablet Technology
 Gateway Tablets (2004)
 Pro
 - Write and record step by step problems using Camtasia Studio.
 - Great for grading!
- On
 - Expensive



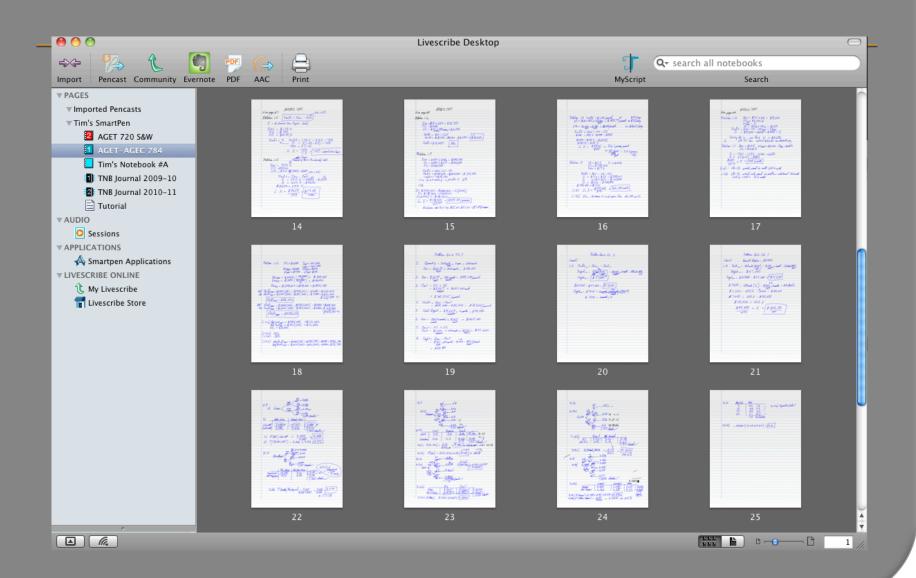
Livescribe Smartpen

Familiar pen and paper format
Digital handwritten ink and synchronous voice recording
Uploaded to a website
Assigned a URL

Livescribe Desktop



Desktop Software



Livescribe Link Page



SmartPen Design

 Livescribe Pulse & Echo Smartpens looks like a somewhat large pen. They are a bit thicker than a regular pen, but they don't feel abnormally large or heavy. • The ink pen is simply an INK PEN. The specially encoded paper is still just **PAPER!** So how does it write? – Just like pen and paper!

What Can I Write?



Echo Smartpen Overview

Micro-USB Connector

Transfers notes and audio to your computer and recharges your smartpen using a standard cable connection.

Microphone

Capture your meetings or lectures with crisp clear sound.

Built-in Speaker

Built-in speaker produces rich full sound to play back your recorded audio.

Soft Rubber Grip

The new ergonomic design and soft rubber grip provide comfort while writing.

Audio Jack

Standard 3.5mm jack fits your own earphones or the Echo 3–D Recording Premium Headset to enable binaural recording.

OLED Display

High-contrast OLED display makes it easy to navigate smartpen apps.

Memory Storage

Holds 400 or 800 hours of recorded audio. (4GB and 8GB models available)

Replaceable Ink Tip

Simply remove the ink cartridge with your fingers and insert a new one.

Echo - What's in the Box 4 Gb \$169 & 8 Gb \$199

Contents of the Echo Smartpen Package



Using the Livescribe Smartpen

- Turn It On!
- Write on the Special Livescribe dotencoded paper.
- If you want it to record your voice, simply Click the "Record Button" and Click the Stop Button when you want to Stop recording audio.
 You can "Tap" anywhere on the notes you
 - have written, and it will play back the audio that occurred at that time.

Previous Experiences: Undergraduate Students

Undergraduate Survey at UTM

Measure of Effectiveness

• Three semesters of class data for AGET 110

- Class A Spring 2010-traditional lecture based teaching methods (Control)
- Class B Fall 2010 traditional lecture based teaching methods and DLOs created with the Smartpen
- Class C Spring 2011 traditional lecture based teaching methods and DLOs created with the Smartpen
- Student Survey

Student Survey Outcomes

Class B responses (n=30)

Question	Yes	No	Somewhat
Did you access the DLOs when completing your homework?	23	7	
Did you access the DLOs when studying for your exam?	23	7	
Did you find them helpful?	21	4	5

Class C responses (n=49)

Question	Yes	No	Somewhat
Did you access the DLOs when completing your homework?	41	8	
Did you access the DLOs when studying for your exam?	30	19	
Did you find them helpful?	32	7	10

Statistical Analysis

Average Exam Scores

Class	Exam l	Exam 2	Exam 3	Final Ex
A (n=28)	83.4	62.0	73.3	71.9
B (n=30)	83.8	64.8	77.7	79.9*
C (n=48)	74.7*	74.8*	77.4	74.9

*Significant at the 0.01 level

Class A (**Control**) had no DLOs available.

Student Perceptions

- Students perceived the DLOs were advantageous to them
 DLOs were accessed for exam preparation an average of 60%
 Final Survey
 - Overall opinion of the DLOs for the course

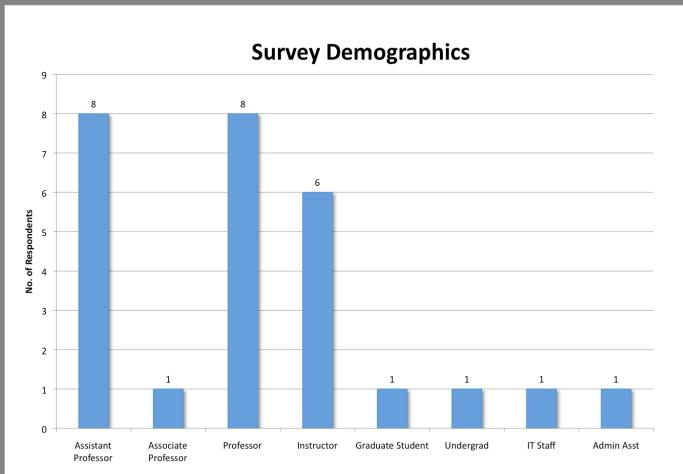
Student Perceptions

- "Did you find them helpful?"
 - Class B 87% found DLOs helpful or somewhat helpful
 - Class C 86 % found DLOs helpful or somewhat helpful
- "Please rate your overall opinion of the availability of the DLOs and their helpfulness for this course."
 - Class B (86%)
 Very positive 33%
 Positive 53%
 Class C (89%)
 Very positive 56%
 Positive 33%

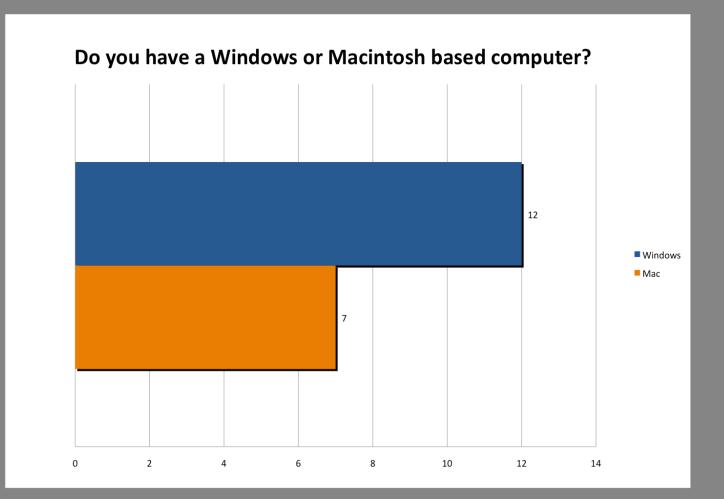
Previous Experiences: Faculty

Faculty Survey

Who Responded to the Survey? (n = 27)



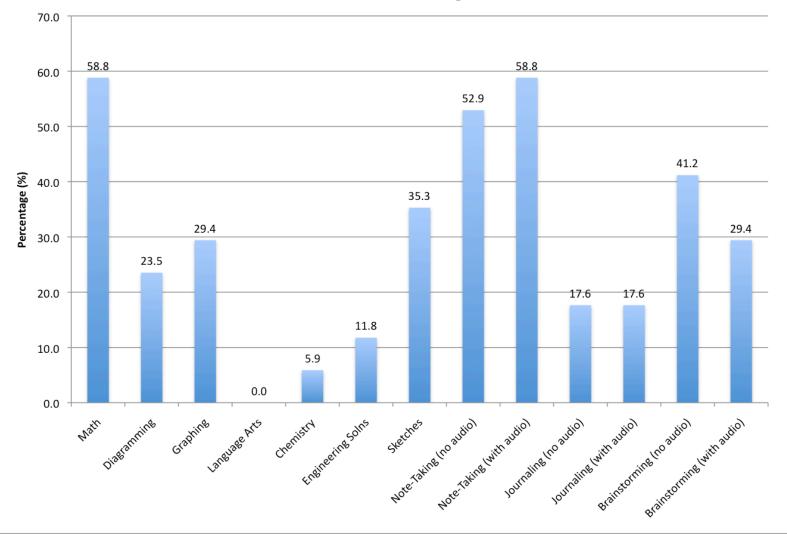
Windows or Mac

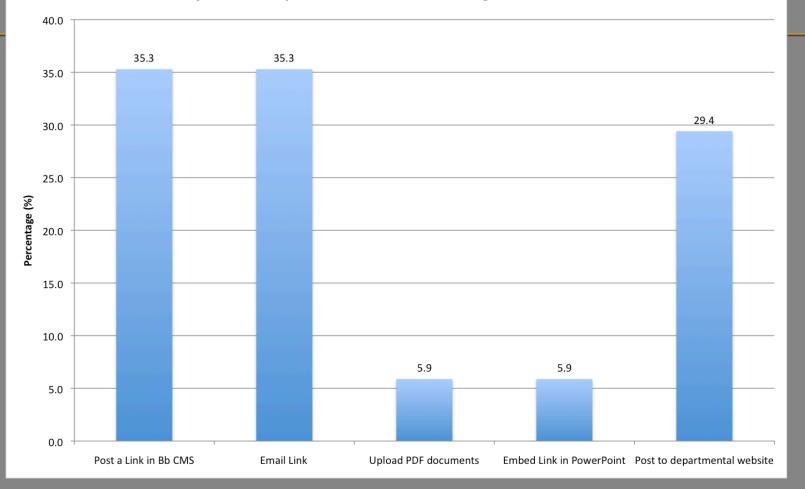


Teaching Style



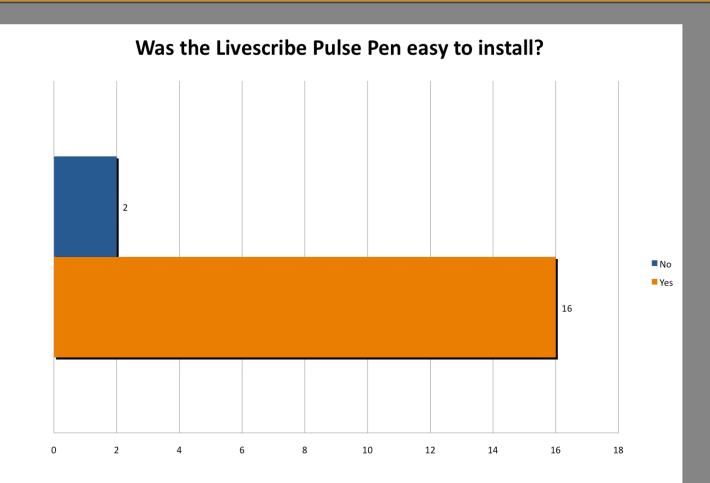
Livescribe Usage



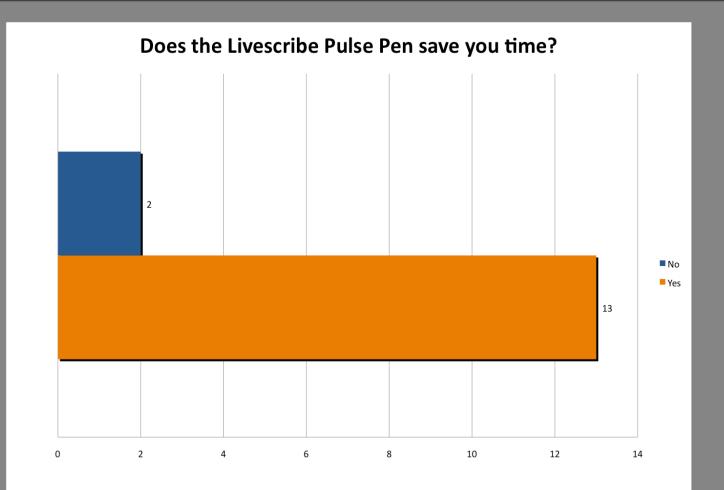


How do you share your Livescribe teaching modules with others?

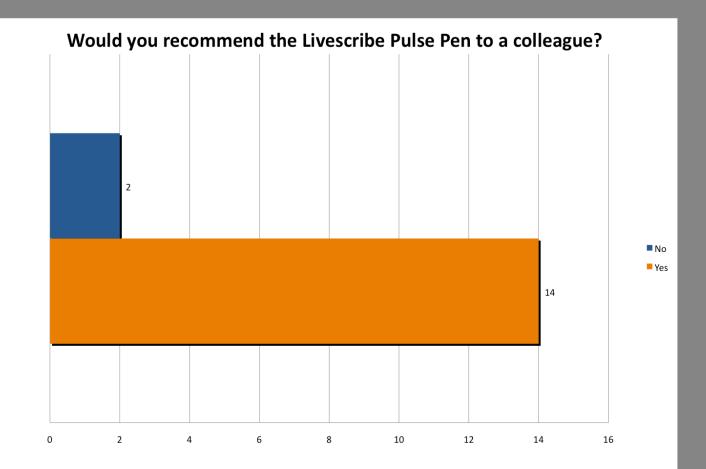
Easy to Install?



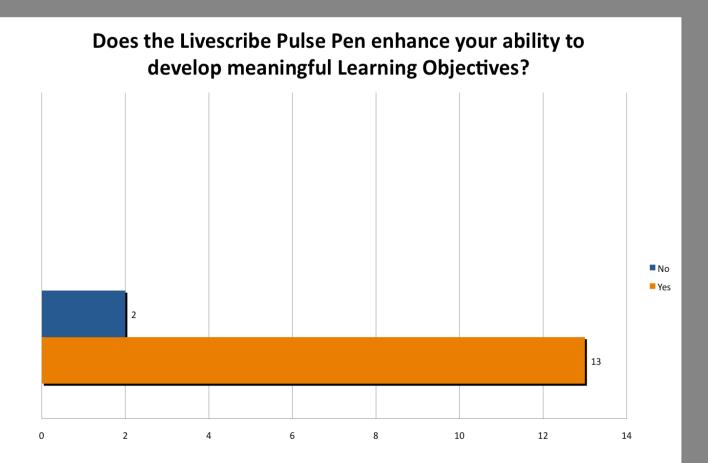
Save Time?



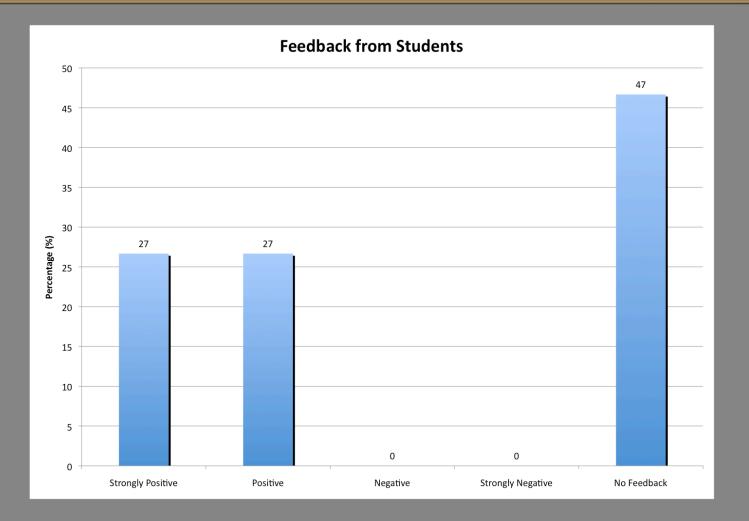
Would You Recommend the Livescribe?



Enhance Ability to Develop Learning Objects?



What are students saying?



Conclusions

- The Livescribe Smartpen provides a userfriendly digital interface for traditional pen and paper mathematical solutions with voice
- Helpful in engaging students outside the classroom
- Great advantage of accessibility for students
- More inclusion in courses in the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources

Example of Problem Solving

 Example Problem (Dr. Sandy Mehlhorn)
 Welfare Analysis Graph: Externalities (NRM 730)