



# New Chalk Talk

The Center for Learning and Teaching Newsletter  
Teaching News

The Center for Learning and Teaching  
Academic Center, Room 212A  
Tel. 20.2.797.6659, [clt@aucegypt.edu](mailto:clt@aucegypt.edu)

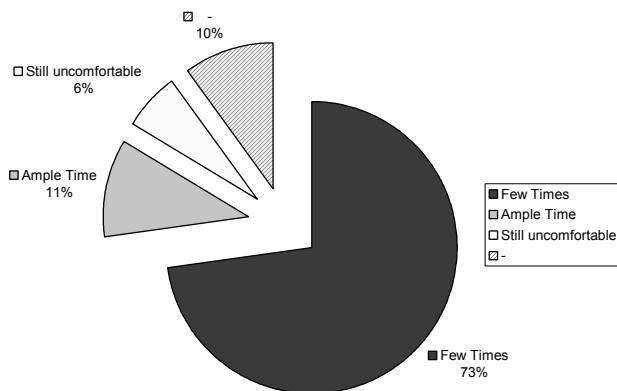
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## WebCT: our students want more of it

If you have attended the successful WebCT day organized by Academic Computing Services (ACS) three weeks ago, you would have heard at least two faculty members mention that their students were “technophobic”. A survey, conducted jointly by ACS and CLT last spring, shows otherwise. A full report on this survey will be available soon. In the meantime, here is a highlight of some of the results.<sup>1</sup>

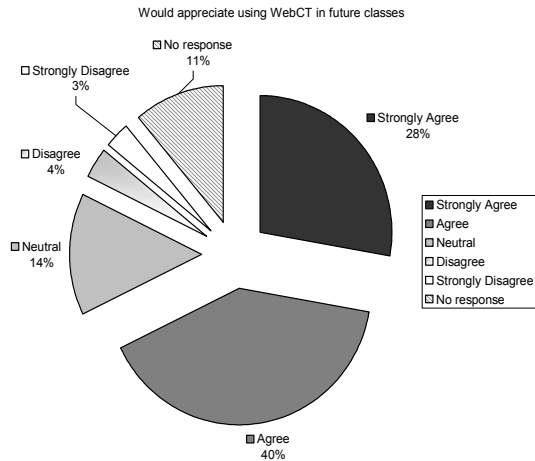
A. A majority of students quickly felt comfortable using WebCT.

How long did it take you to feel comfortable with using WebCT?



<sup>1</sup> A representative sample of 400 students was needed, and an unexpected 1221 students responded. The survey was posted online on the students’ WebCT accounts.

B. A majority of students would like to see WebCT used in their future courses.

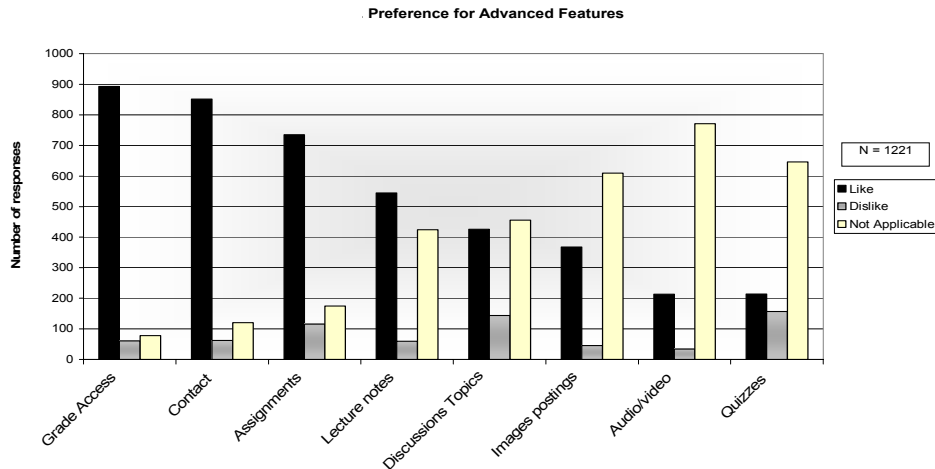


The most frequently occurring written comment:  
**use WebCT in more courses**

*Samples:*

- “make it accessible for ‘all’ courses”
- “It should be mandatory for all professors to use WebCT as part of their approach to teaching.”
- “...encouraging instructors to use more frequently...”
- “put more courses in it”
- “teach all instructors how to use it and force them to it. I mean make a must”

C. WebCT’s advanced features were popular with students when used, but many instructors do not use them.

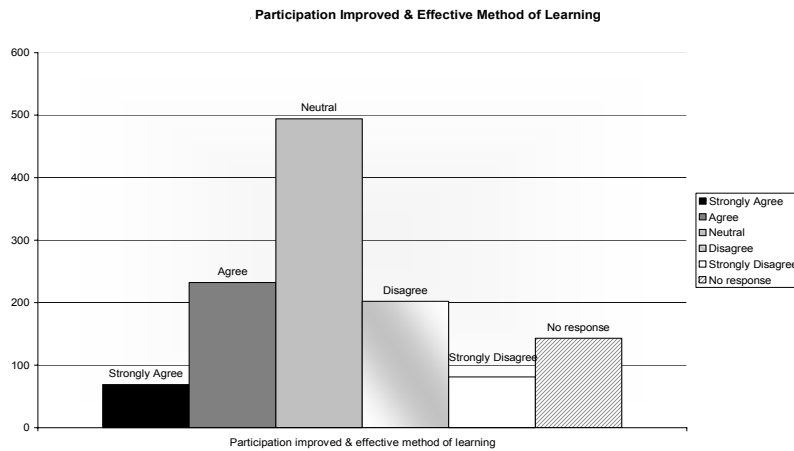


The fourth most frequently occurring written comment: use more features of WebCT/or train instructors better

*Samples*

- “More teachers should use WebCT’s full potential. The website has a great deal of potential, but some teachers do not exercise the tools available, this makes our course less enjoyable and more difficult”
- “teach professors how to use it properly and effectively”
- The tools already existing in WebCT could be a lot more effective if the instructors were trained and had more knowledge on how to deal with WebCT. A lot of instructors don't know that much about how to handle WebCT and so they just get too reluctant to use it. So train the instructors PLEASE!!

D. Despite the overall satisfaction with WebCT, students were neutral when it comes to judging its' effectiveness as a learning tool.



This is an interesting and significant result. Research by others in the last ten years has shown that technologies allow us the flexibility to try out different strategies that promote student centered learning. Although the above results indicate that students are receptive to WebCT, they also indicate that we, as faculty, can reflect on how to design more effective learning experiences in order to explore the full potential of WebCT (or other technologies).

***Please send comments or suggestions to [aellozy@aucegypt.edu](mailto:aellozy@aucegypt.edu)***