

Adobe Connect LTI @ IU

Evaluation Report of the Pilot Implemented in Fall 2015

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Adobe Connect is a synchronous web collaboration tool used extensively for teaching and learning applications. Currently, it lacks any native integration with learning management systems. eSyncTraining's custom integration between Adobe Connect's API and Canvas' Learning Tool Interoperability (LTI) interface was added to the Next.IU pilot list in the Fall 2015 semester to provide a seamless experience for users. This solution offered faculty members ways to create Adobe Connect meetings, manage recordings, and control student access—all from within Canvas. Students would then be able to join Connect meetings and view recordings with ease.

In November 2015, faculty members and their students, who were using eSyncTraining's Adobe Connect Integration for Canvas (Connect LTI) in their courses during Fall 2015 across Indiana University campuses, were sent online surveys to evaluate Connect LTI's quality and utility and to share their experiences with Connect LTI. This report summarizes the findings from faculty and student surveys.

Key Faculty Findings

- A survey was sent to 19 faculty who were teaching 18 different courses. Ten faculty responded, resulting in a response rate of 53%. Seven of these faculty felt very or extremely comfortable using technology while two other faculty were extremely uncomfortable with technology. All but one of these faculty members were teaching undergraduate level courses. Half of the ten courses were primarily online while the other half were primarily face-to-face.
- Four respondents reported using Connect LTI incidentally while five reported using it moderately or extensively. Incidental users utilized Connect LTI for their office hours and to deliver lectures and demonstrations. Moderate and extensive users recorded their lectures and presentations in addition to facilitating online study groups in Adobe Connect. One faculty reported never using the Connect LTI because it was added to her course late in the semester.
- When asked to rate their overall satisfaction with Connect LTI on a 4-point scale (1 – *Strongly Disagree*, 4 – *Strongly Agree*):
 - 8 of 9 faculty found Connect LTI easy to use and useful for their teaching,
 - 7 of 9 faculty stated that Connect LTI was easy for their students to use, and
 - 7 of 9 faculty indicated that they would use Connect LTI in future courses and recommend it to their colleagues.
- Regarding Connect LTI's impact on teaching and learning, a majority of the faculty respondents agreed that using Adobe Connect Integration for Canvas:
 - Helped them communicate with their students (8 of 9 faculty),
 - Enabled them to do what they wanted to do for their course (8 of 9 faculty),
 - Has been beneficial to their students' overall learning (7 of 9 faculty),
 - Increased their efficiency and effectiveness as an instructor (6 of 9 faculty),
 - Improved student communication and engagement in their courses (5 of 9 faculty).

Five faculty respondents believed that Connect LTI allowed them to teach in a new way.

- When asked to rate Connect LTI's features in terms of usefulness, four features were rated 3 or higher on a 4-point scale (with 3 being moderately useful):
 - Creating Adobe Connect meetings (6 of 7 faculty),
 - Joining Adobe Connect meetings (7 of 9 faculty),
 - Viewing Adobe Connect recordings (7 of 9 faculty),
 - Hosting virtual office hours in Adobe Connect (7 of 9 faculty).
- Faculty respondents liked the ease of access and use of Connect LTI. Several faculty noted that staying within Canvas to access the meeting and recordings made it very easy and convenient for both faculty and students.
- When asked what they liked least about Connect LTI, most faculty pointed to technical issues such as dropped audio or video. One faculty reported that it did not allow him to see if students watched a recorded meeting. Another faculty reported struggling with sharing her computer desktop in the meeting room.

Key Student Findings

- A Survey was sent to 519 students in 18 courses. 36 students responded, resulting in a response rate of 7%. Most of the respondents were undergraduate students while 25% were graduate students. Seventy-five percent of the students were female while others were male. The majority of student respondents (85%) were at least somewhat comfortable with technology.
- 67% of the students reported using Connect LTI moderately or extensively while 11% described their level of use as incidental. Eight students stated that they never used Connect LTI in their course.
- A majority of the students who reported using Connect LTI found it easy to use (84%) and useful for their learning (92%). Students also stated that they would recommend Connect LTI use in other courses (84%).
- When asked to rate the statements regarding the perceived impact of Connect LTI on their learning on a 4-point scale (1 - *Strongly Disagree*, 4- *Strongly Agree*), a majority of the students ($n = 25$) agreed that using Connect LTI helped them:
 - To learn the course materials/content (92%),
 - To attend class meetings remotely (76%),
 - To make efficient use of their time in the course (80%),
 - To communicate with their instructor (80%),
 - To communicate with their classmates (76%),
 - To collaborate with their classmates (72%),
 - To be in control of their own learning in the course (76%).

In addition, all but one student (96%) agreed that Connect LTI was beneficial to their overall learning in the course.

- When asked what they liked most about Connect LTI, the majority of the student respondents praised its ease of use. The ability to synchronously communicate with classmates, create groups for collaboration, and record meetings for later reviews were among the other features students liked about the Connect LTI.
- When asked what they liked least about Connect LTI, varying volume between browsers, difficulty with sharing the screen or connecting audio, connection problems, and frozen screen were among the reported technical issues. One student commented that the Flash technology used by Adobe Connect is a disadvantage given that mobile devices and some browsers do not support Flash-based internet applications.