

[CLICKERS STUDENT SURVEY SP2009 \(CLICKERS_STUDENT_SURVEY\)](#) > [CONTROL PANEL](#) > [GRADE CENTER](#) > [ITEM OPTIONS](#) > ASSESSMENT STATISTICS: NEXT STEPS



Assessment Statistics: Next Steps

The statistics are calculated based only on the attempts being used in the grading option (Last attempt, First attempt, Lowest Score, Highest Score, or Average of Scores). If Average of Scores is the grading option, then all attempts are included in the statistics.

Name Next Steps
Attempts 345 (Total of 360 attempts for this assessment)
Instructions Please answer the following questions.

Remember to click "Submit" when you are finished so the results will be recorded. Thanks for your participation!

Question 1 Multiple Choice

Are you currently using a CPS clicker in your SP2009 course?

Answers	Percent Answered
Yes	97.681%
No--I stopped using clickers	2.319%
No--I never started using clickers	0%
<i>Unanswered</i>	0%

Question 2 Multiple Choice

Which answer best describes your current thoughts about the value of using clickers to student learning or faculty teaching?

Answers	Percent Answered
The value of clickers is not worth the problems we currently have.	20.29%
The value of clickers is worth exploring another option.	25.797%
I would prefer to live with our current problems than explore another option.	47.246%
I'm done using clickers.	6.087%
<i>Unanswered</i>	0.58%

Question 3 Multiple Choice

Is it worth exploring other options, if we can get a discount for students who have bought eInstruction clickers?

Answers	Percent Answered
Yes	58.261%
No	41.159%
<i>Unanswered</i>	0.58%

Question 4 Ordering

Using 1 for "highest" and 6 for "lowest" re-order the following to reflect your priorities in using any kind of clicker.

Answers	1	2	3	4	5	6
Functionality	16.812%	22.609%	17.681%	22.319%	11.014%	7.826%
Ease of use	24.058%	18.841%	23.188%	16.812%	7.826%	8.116%
Reliability	20.29%	24.058%	23.188%	15.942%	7.826%	7.246%
Cost to Students	39.13%	13.333%	15.362%	15.362%	6.377%	9.855%
Support by UMBC Div. of Information Technology	10.435%	9.275%	11.594%	10.725%	30.725%	24.928%
Ability to collect student input from other devices (e.g., cell phones, laptops, PDAs, etc.)	11.884%	6.377%	9.855%	6.377%	15.072%	47.536%

Question 5 Multiple Choice

If UMBC were to switch clickers, how soon would you be willing to make the transition?

Answers	Percent Answered
Start of Fall 2009	32.464%
Start of Spring 2010	24.638%
Start of Fall 2010	42.609%
<i>Unanswered</i>	0.29%

Question 6 Multiple Choice

To help make sure we switch to the "right" clicker, would you be willing to buy a second clicker as part of a pilot in Fall 2009?

Answers	Percent Answered
Yes	5.797%
No	64.348%
Depends on if clickers are used better in classes than they are now.	20.29%
I don't know.	9.565%
<i>Unanswered</i>	0%

Question 7 Multiple Choice

Knowing DoIT is stretched to provide more support for clickers than we do now, do you think faculty should be asked to attend training to make clicker use more efficient and effective?

Answers	Percent Answered
Yes	59.42%
No	17.101%
Maybe--but a one-time course development stipend to do so would help.	22.609%

Unanswered

0.87%

Question 8 Short Answer

How extensive should our research into alternate clickers be? Are students content to let DoIT narrow the choices, pick one to be piloted in classes, or do we need multiple brands/pilots?

Note: The wider our scope of inquiry, the longer it will take to make the transition. And the harder it will be for DoIT to support multiple production and test solutions--especially while students might find themselves in courses using different clickers. Basically, how involved do students want to be in this process?

Unanswered Responses

142

Given Answers

please DO NOT make us spend more money on these things. figure out the problem with what we already have!

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Clickers are not worth the time or the money. The receiver or something doesn't work most of the time. Its college and its only used to take attendance. Stop using clickers

Pick the cheapest alternative. I don't want my tuition wasted on this when the current systems works fine except a few kinks. But if those kinks can be ironed out in a cost effective way then go for it.

A lot of the professors use it in the beginning of semester and then stop using it or some professors barely use clickers in class but since they are required, students sign up for them. When professors don't use them in class as often, it seems like a waste of money. If professors are willing to use it more regularly then it is not bad to switch over.

I personally don't want to have to pay more money for another clicker. So if your research lets students try different clickers for free (including the registration cost, not only the purchase of the clicker), more choices would be better.

Considering I and many other students paid for a lifetime subscription for clickers, if the clicker system was switched and we had to repay to use them then I would expect an immediate refund of the subscription fee. As long as the subscription carries over, then I would be OK with it, but if it does not, UMBC would have a lot of disgruntled students demanding refunds.

They aren't horrible so I don't think extensive research is necessary. The bugs just need to be worked out.

I like the clickers that we are using now, and I see no reason to change. Aside from an occasional day when the clickers won't connect or something like that, they are great. In my opinion, we should keep the clickers we have now.

test out multiple brands

Your research should definitely include looking into how useful clickers actually are. In my experience, they are used mainly for attendance, which the frequent problems with the clickers complicate unnecessarily. They're more a frustration than an educational aid.

That said, if you do stick with clickers, I couldn't care less what new brand is chosen. I'm finishing

my last clicker class now, so this won't affect me.

I only one problem with clickers and that's when I first tried to register it, it said the number was already in use even though I bought a brand new clicker. But I called eInstruction and they fixed the problem very quickly. I don't think there should be an extensive look into alternate clickers. I think there should be only one clicker that everyone has to use. And for me the current one is perfect.

pick one pilot. comment: many students have bought the lifetime subscription for their current clickers, so they will not want to lose that subscription if we change clickers.

Don't switch clickers, just make the current ones better, if that's the problem. No one wants to buy more clickers.

It should not be that extensive of a search...If it's not producing positive feedback, action needs to be taken immediately.

I would not like spending the money to buy several different clickers, and feel that students with a large class load would not appreciate multiple clickers. Most students with science majors take almost all classes that involve clickers. So for students like myself, having several brands of clickers for several classes could become confusing and cause more harm than good. Other than that, I think I'd be willing to do what is necessary to make the system better.

Allow trial groups of different students (i.e. classes) pilot different clickers. It's important that they be functional in a real world environment.

Also, consider creating your own solution. As a computer science student, after being frustrated with how impossible the current system is, I looked for a better answer myself. A solution driven over the web, such as a series of php scripts / dedicated collection servers, would provide a large amount of support with very little effort. Hosting the collection through short range wireless with standard web protocols would allow students to use ipods, laptops and other internet enabled devices to answer the questions, as well as provide features not available on the current system (such as providing the question in addition to the choices, etc.). For those students who do not have such a device, the cost of a low end internet enabled device is very low in this day and age - provide that instead of a clicker to be used with a system like this.

For more info on this concept, please feel free to contact me: ctaylor4@umbc.edu

WANTED: A clicker that...

Clicks the first time you press a button, without having to hold it down forever.

Sends and Receives within 2 seconds, not 10.

Joins instantly, so you don't have to nervously check it until it has.

WANTED: A clicker system, in class, that...

Takes less than 5 minutes to set up (teachers waste time turning it on, and always look confused)--less than 20 seconds to start up (without changing settings) would be ideal.

Is much faster and capable of receiving many more signals at once, so that clicker responses will take much less time even for a large class.

Looks nicer

I have experienced problems in courses with the clickers but the professor, lecturer, etc. would see that and have that day not count for clickers. (When I would have problems it was at least half the class in the same boat). Some students complain about low battery(not realizing these things have a shelf life) and the time it takes to get an answer in in larger classes but as long as the instructor allows enough time and the student is responsible enough to bring extra batteries

then this is not a reason to buy new clickers or spend money researching another option. The clickers now have more functions than we need but we already have them. Also, if you want better feedback on this clicker situation you should state the "problems" you are talking about. Not every class has experienced this, I know I have only seen minimal examples.

I think the current clicker is just fine. Problems only occur with the software, not with the clicker. For example, some professors just don't know how to use the clicker software and uploading them to the web so instead of replacing the clickers, just provide the professors with a hands-on seminar or a little 'easy-to-read' manual that can solve everyone's problems.

Do not research more clickers. I know myself and many students paid the \$50 to register for life with CPS, would UMBC be willing to pay this back to us because life is only 2 semesters?

use iClickers...they are ridiculously easy to use on both students and faculty

Students should not have to deal with the hassles of multiple clicker issues. If clickers must be used, use should involve a standard so more support is provided that is practical for all students.

I think there should only be one brand/pilot of clickers used all over campus to keep things simple. One concern of mine is, what if a student already bought a lifetime subscription to elntstruction?

There should not be any alternative clicker. It would only cost the school more, and the student more. The best course of action would be to fix the current clicker software.

DO NOT MAKE ME BUY ANOTHER CLICKER OR PAY MORE MONEY TO REGISTER. I ALREADY PAID \$50 FOR THE REGISTRATION AND 21 FOR THE CLICKER. UNLESS YOU GUYS ARE GOING TO PAY ME BACK, DO NOT CHANGE ANYTHING UNTIL I GRADUATE.

do not change the system!!!

If it is free yes. There is no point to buy a new one especially if it was used only 1 semester.

If the current clickers can be fixed and have less frequent problems, that would be easier than making a transition to a different kind. Small scale research on other types would be best, in case there is no better alternative. Maybe let a small class test each new brand experimentally.

Students want to be involved as little as possible. If we are going to use clickers we want one that is going to get us class credit. That's it.

idk

As I have purchased the lifetime fee for the current clickers, I would be able to use clickers at no cost for the rest of my college career. If new clickers were used, I would have to pay for the new clicker and new registration. I do not find this a worthwhile enough tool to pay for all over again...sorry.

In my courses we barely use the clickers. I think that they are a good way to engage students in the lectures and therefore believe that more professors should be encouraged to use the clickers as much as possible. I have not encountered issues with the clickers since I barely use them, but since there are apparently significant issues with them then a new alternative should be tested out first in select classes. Students should be highly engaged in the process because after all it's our money and our education. If we make a switch it should be all at once, and most importantly it should be inexpensive.

Let DoIT make the choice

I feel that the clickers we are using right now are fine, maybe because I had no problems with mine in the past two semesters, but I know of many people that had troubles with theirs. I think that faculty should be a little more updated to the new CPS system before going to lecture and

waste our time trying to figure out how they work. Also there have always been troubles with other technological issues not related with the CPS but I guess somebody would have to be on top of those things. As an example for over a month part of the screen on lecture hall two was not been showed on the projector because it was a little bit too high and nobody fixed that little problem that seemed to be very easy in such a long time.

if u guys do switch to a new brand or multiple brands please make sure that no matter the brand being used they are all compatiable for all systems. i will not buy four different brands of clickers because my chemistry teacher uses one brand and all the other brands do not work with that system

I think that whatever clicker ends up being used will be ok for the students. The biggest thing I can see being an issue is for those students who have paid a lifetime membership for the clickers we are using now instead of just semester by semester so those students may not be as willing to switch over clicker systems.

You seem like intelligent, rational folks over at DoIT, so I would trust you guys to pick the best one for our needs, or maybe the best two, and go from there. It seems like it would be very costly to start up many different pilots, not to mention incredibly confusing for everyone involved.

Personally, I hate the clicker and find that they are being used by professors to take attendance and nothing more. For the most part, the seem to be electronic hand raisers, witht the teacher saying, "A, B, or C?", then simply "okay so most of you got this right...". In every class in which I have used clickers the teachers simply used them once for maybe 5 min. each class period, so it was obvious that attendance was their only concern. It is absurd to ask students to pay the clicker company so that the professors can force the students into class, instead of trying to make the students want to come to class.

This extensive research into alternate clickers is not needed and not worth it. I have never had a problem with my clicker, and I am 100% satisfied with how things are right now. If I have to buy a new one, even with a discount, I will be very upset. If I have never experienced a problem, why change it? So UMBC can get more money? No thank you!

very extensive! find the cheapest and most reliable option

I think you guys should just leave it alone. Students are spending 10,000 a year on tuition by itself. Books are around 500 a semester. I dont want to have to buy another clicker.

I think clickers are dumb and do nothing to increase the amount of learning I do in class, so we should just abandon the program completely in my opinion.

this is fine

I ca only see CPS clickers are a way of answering multiple choice questions. I do not believe there is much more you should do with the clickers. Extensive research for the "perfect" clicker is a waste of resource, the whole purpose of a CPS is for a quick response. The clickers work fine now at doing that task. Anything added is just going to make it overly complicated and probably cause more harm than good. There are teachers who are still unsure of how to use the CPS clickers and adding more functions to it will not make the CPS easier to use or more friendly.

Students get involved with clickers a lot.

Multiple brands and pilots.

The clicker system should not be changed; it should be fixed where necessary. The failures of the clicker system are not the students' responsibility or fault, so the students should not be held accountable for the costs of fixing it (i.e. buying new clickers, new registration, cost of installing new system, etc.). I, personally have only had my clicker for a year and so would hope to be

reimbursed for the cost of the clicker and the "lifetime" registration I purchased for it. It is practically brand-new.

Choose select classes to test different kinds of clickers, and provide them to students at no cost

I would enjoy if it if students were more involved in the process of deciding which clickers work best for us. I don't think we should use multiple brands / pilots in actual classes. Perhaps DoIT should come up with a pool of about 100 students or so who can decide on one brand. I am a freshman and have only used one type of clicker over 2 semesters, and would prefer that it stay that way.

The whole reason I like clickers is because it gives the teacher a chance to test whether or not the information they just taught was absorbed. Asking clicker questions helps students realize that they may or may not understand what was just said. Sometimes, I think I understand something, and then I get the question wrong and realize that I need to look into that concept more when I study so it is helpful.

Therefore, as long as a clicker works (and I think the ones now do for that purpose), then it's fine. I don't need something high tech. I just want the server to work so the clickers work so the only reason I'd want a new clicker is if it helps in that aspect.

I think research into alternate clickers would be a waste of time. I feel that the current system is good.

I am content letting DoIT narrow the choices, but generally i would not like to change our current clickers, since we have paid 50\$ to register our clickers for all our classes, and if this contract will break by moving to another clicker system i would be outraged, so you need to have in mind the contract with the students, since students can always ban clickers and the professors won't have say, we are the ones that pay for our education, we should have the power to decide how we want to spend our money.

There doesn't have to be much student involvement as long as the DoIT bears in mind that students need something that's inexpensive and works very well and with very few problems, if any, like the clickers we already have.

If a brand is offering a one-time fee to register a clicker for lifetime use, the brand should really be considered as an alternative option; the clickers we have now are commonly used in large science lecture classes, and the one-time fee we get with CPS is inexpensive in the long run for students majoring in the sciences.

I don't understand why students can't use their laptops to submit their answers instead of clickers. Considering most of the students have either a laptop, cell phone, or both, there is no need for \$40 devices to do something that can easily be setup to work over the internet. Use your resources to design a webpage to do this. Not to test more electronic devices that we don't need.

The importance of clickers in class, in my opinion, is not worth exploring more options. In most classes they are used for little more than attendance, and really don't help teach the curriculum. Quizzes online or in class, or surveys online could easily replace them.

I believe there should be only one type of clicker used on campus. It would get expensive and confusing to have more than one going during a semester when students often have them for more than one class.

I view clickers as another assignment from professors and not something I am invested in. I have not had any problems with the current clickers. I think that the problems are more on the faculty end than the student end and therefore I am not willing to do a lot to assist in changing the current program. I bought the lifetime subscription to elnstruction and do not wish to spend any

money to remedy a problem that I am not experiencing.

I only have one class that uses it... and we never really have problems.
I don't want to spend more money on another clicker.

I think if the price of the clickers goes down, changing clickers is worth looking into. If its just going to cost more money that students don't have, then there is no point. The clickers we use now work fine and get the job done.

Alternate clickers should be tested with a sample of 300-350 persons to make sure every single clicker is able to function optimally and be received by the CPS of the instructor. If there are problems, these should be fixed in a timely manner.

I think reliability is the main issue. A wide search shouldn't be necessary just to find something reliable.

Every course i've had so far that has used a clicker (three or so) has shown that the clickers can be a big waste of time. Often professors don't know how to properly work the system and the clickers don't seem to be reliable. The time it takes to bring up the clickers and go through the process of using them is not worth the time spent. Also, I would NOT like to have to pay for another clicker again. I've spent enough money on this as it is.

If clickers are necessary they should be made to be more reliable and work faster and more efficiently.

In general, I believe them to be useful, but my number one priority as a student is cost. If there was a one-time fee, it would be much more accepted by the student body. I spend too much money as it is on books and online tutorials, and I don't need another reason to spend more.

I don't know if switching systems is necessary. If faculty and staff become more familiar with how the e-instruction ones work and are able to work out any kinks then using the same ones is fine. It's only if the issues are on e-instruction's end that we should switch systems.

Involved enough to say: I would rather clickers not be used at all

I don't want to switch clickers at all. They work fine enough as is. The only issue is that they're a little slow, but that does not significantly impede the flow of a lecture. I bought one clicker and paid for \$30 for licenses to use it in class. I don't need to spend a lot more money on another system and more licenses.

I believe most problems come from teachers not knowing how to use the clicker system and the system does not always work reliably.

I like the ideas of clickers, but i think if the teacher doesn't know how to use the clicker, it holds class up.

I do not like the idea of new clickers because these clickers cost enough and the school would be forcing students to spend more money.

The clickers we have now are pretty good. I actually prefer the old model and wish it was still offered. I would say do your research into what the clickers are capable and pick a simple, cost-effective clicker rather than one with tons of "benefits." The more complex the little bit of machinery, the more things there are to break, and the more DoIT will have to deal with problems!!

Very extensive to provide the best possible solution for students. There will always be someone complaining about the situation, but if the situation is handled in a logical and methodical manner, for each complain, proof can be presented that the problem was extensively researched before proceeding with acquisition. Additional manpower may be needed to meet specific deadlines, or

deadlines should be delayed. Regarding student participation, this method would be extremely unreliable unless a group of students were asked to participate particularly for the process of testing the clicker, in which, these students would be provided with test clickers to test meanwhile maintaining their original clickers as to avoid any situations which may arise from a malfunction in the system. These "volunteers" can be trained in what they need to look for and achieve and the device with the most positive review from the sample would most likely be the choice. And this could not be limited to students only, as instructors may test them on their own CPS portions of their class.

The clickers are fine. Some are just not reliable and break easily, but in that case students can buy new ones. I do not think we should get a new one because it is not necessary.

nothing

Research should be every extensive because you will find that a vast majority of upperclass students will not be in favor of switching over to new clickers. It took a while to get use to the current clickers and nobody will be willing to buy a new clicker if they currently have a lifetime registration and a perfectly good clicker with einstruction.

I think multiple options should be explored and to base much of the answer on student opinion.

I find the clicker system to be ineffective and unhelpful in courses. Even in the case of professors who actually know how to use them, they only slow down the class. I've yet to encounter a professor who made some significant positive change in the course by use of clickers. I don't really see this as a problem with the current clickers, so I'm not sure a new clicker system would help.

The problem with clickers now, other than not being able to log in and other functional aspects (which is what this survey is about), is actually the teachers themselves. I find that Clickers force students to show up to class that would otherwise skip. This might seem like a good thing, but to those of us who would like to actually pay attention and learn with our time, these students make it that much harder to learn our very hard material. Clickers right now are more of a distraction and an annoyance than a teaching tool. I would like to see more effort spent deciding "how" the clicker will be used, than to get clickers that "work". So what if they work perfectly, they are still *negatively* impacting the classroom setting.

I definitely think they can be an amazing teaching tool. If you are going to have a pilot program then I urge you to also reform the role these devices play in the classroom. Some example of better use can be:

1)Don't use them to take attendance or in any other way affect a student's grade

2)Use them to get interactive data from the students....

2a)Student's feel uncomfortable answering in front of 200-300 other people and are more inclined to answer a well thought out question (and answer) via clickers than in person

2b)This will help an instructor get real time data on how well students grasped the concept just taught without negatively impacting the student's grade. It's not the student's fault if they don't understand the concept 5 minutes after being taught it for the first time in their life. This will let the teacher make a decision, right then and there, on whether they should reteach the subject or move on.

3)As previously stated, teach the instructors how to use the software so there is at the very least a department standard of use, if not school wide. Examples would be whether to show the correct answer immediately after collecting results or waiting until the teacher has explained the question and then showing the answer. I notice a lot of teachers *intend* to go over questions, but the program displays the correct answer before they have time to make students work through the question, post response. This would be prevented if they had better training on the software, yes I fully believe it is user error in these instances-maybe caused by unuser friendly interfaces-,

so they know why or how to do something.

I know this is a bit lengthy and most of it does not relate to the technical aspects, which is what you are looking for. However, I believe the source of most problems can be traced back to frustrated teachers that cannot make the system do what they want and blame the hardware/software when really it is their ill training that is causing the problem. Attack the problem not the symptoms. Having said that I do think a hardware change may be in order as there are countless times that people can't log in and whatever else, I'm sure you have a list of them. I would just like the proper care to be taken on the whole problem, not just one aspect.

I think personally that clickers are a waste of time. Teachers spend a lot of time on developing questions and then waiting for students to answer in class. I am not too keen on the idea of buying another since the one that I have is already expensive especially to buy the service for it, it is definitely not worth it.

I think whatever will be the quickest option is best, as many people are annoyed with the clickers as they are, so the longer it takes to switch over the more annoyed people will get.

Your research should be extensive enough to find other alternatives to clickers while being able to maintain support for the continued use of the current system until a change is required. If Dolt is going to narrow choices, then extreme consideration should be placed on the cost-to-students and maintainability. If a discovered system is cheaper but less reliable I would expect Dolt to eliminate that choice, but at the same time eliminate one that has a higher price, higher quality potential. Pilot programs would be nice only if a balance between cost to students and cost to the university can be met. Definitely researching how other schools/students view the alternatives is preferred rather than just going off of what the company says. Definitely keep the student body updated and set up a system where students can provide feedback or other types of input on the systems.

On a side note, making sure that all staff that will use clickers (or other alternatives) share the same system. Students shouldn't have to switch devices or methods between classes just because of a certain professor's preference (especially since clickers count toward our grades!)

Thank you

Would help if students had a choice...

I think it should be relatively expensive. There should definitely be multiple brands/pilots to be used, but not at the cost of the student. We are already spending so much money on classes I don't feel it's right to make us purchase new clickers every couple of years, which is what has happened already.

The problem will be cost for students (esp those who will be graduating in Fall '09), no student will want to spend money on a brand new clicker if they're just going to use it for one semester. Also, the functionality of the clickers are perhaps, going downhill. We need clickers that function correctly & are highly reliable esp if our grades depended on our participation/getting the answers right.

I think you should search for the best option and the best price for students. We already pay enough for books for our classes, we don't need to pay even more for clickers. I like clickers because they are an easy way to participate in class and show you how well you stack up against your class at mastering concepts. They are a good tool to use and I like how you can pay a one time fee, if you know that you're going to be using your clicker for a lot of classes over your years at UMBC.

I think that clickers do not add a lot of value to classes. My experience is that they add very little other than motivating students to come to lecture for fear of losing points.

I think the incorporated cost of the clickers now is above what most students feel comfortable paying, especially those paying for most of their fees/book costs themselves. Adding an additional cost for a technology that could be replaced with simple pen and paper answers seems extravagant and expensive.

I feel that right now students feel like something needs to be done with the current system. It may not just be the system because I am sure that not all the teachers truly know what they are doing when they use the clicker system. Also if we do get a new clicker system that hurts us students because most of us have paid a lifetime subscription to the service because we know that we would be using the clickers a lot. So if we do go with a new clicker the school needs to find a way to maybe partially pay for the clicker and subscription to the new clicker service.

It should definitely involve enough student participation.

Students feel that it is important that they are able to interact with the teacher and material in the class, it helps them gauge their own learning; I believe that students would be willing to play a strong role in this process if cost is kept minimum to none.

I am content to let DoIT narrow the choices and then pick one to be piloted in classes.

It's easier just to have one type of clicker across all classes. Students won't like having to buy different clickers for different classes, just one that they can use throughout the 4 years.

I love our clickers now. I rarely get problems ever since I bought the digital one. The problem is not the clickers but the people implementing the technology. My physics teacher Lili Cui uses the technology with skill and it is a huge benefit to our physics class! Teachers need to learn from her!!!

Either look at the alternatives and choose one for students to transition to or have the student body vote on choices on whom DoIT posts information pertinent to students like discounts, clicker cost, registration cost, etc

Students probably won't mind participating if the purchase of new clickers, especially for a pilot is covered financially. We spent money into buying a CPS / eInstruction clicker - requiring the use of another clicker system would make our current one 1.) useless waste of money and 2.) a tremendous production of trash. There needs to be more research into providing an easier method to upgrading the system, perhaps by a cascading model. Also needed is multiple brands, but instead of doing primary research by just running pilot programs, I would suggest asking companies to give samples / demos of their product, with the cooperation of professors to use it during one of the class sessions, then recording student & professor feedback on feedback cards. It makes things less expensive and almost risk-free while providing incentives for companies to strive to provide for the best solution.

I think there should probably only be one uniform brand. Therefore technical difficulties can be minimized. Clickers are occasionally forgotten and sometimes the battery just goes out on us. If somehow cellphones or laptops could be used to send the same information on those days we forget or the battery dies out, that would be awesome

Clickers are not being used as instructional tools in lectures any more. Professors are simply using them to take attendance making UMBC resemble High school all over again. I find it baffling that the faculty and administrators at UMBC place more importance on students listening to them than on students taking responsibility for themselves.

DoIT could recruit a group of volunteers to test out a couple brands of clickers, and then stick with one. The fact is - professors really really like using clickers for instant feedback and attendance. So, they're probably here to stay as long as it's possible for them to. Nobody wants to pay for different clickers. However, they were incredibly pricey to begin with - especially for a lifetime subscription, so I feel that unless the school is going to transfer to a truly "better" clicker, it's not worth it to switch over.

I don't think students want to be involved in this process at all, and I also don't want to pay for a new clicker.

The only problem with trying to use multiple clickers at once would be students who end up having to buy two clickers for one semester. Discounts would be nice as well if we have to buy more than one new clicker in a year.

I think a pilot with new clickers would be a good idea but the downside is I have my doubts that students would be willing to pilot if they needed to actually purchase another clicker. One thing that could possibly work is if DoIT was to get a number of clickers to pilot and then randomly select people who filled out this survey and were interested in the pilot, then let them sign out the clicker if interested and give feedback. If multiple pilots were to be attempted, maybe 2-3 could be selected and split up the semester with them.

clickers are a waste of time, and they're not at all worth the money. they shouldn't be a requirement for classes at all. they're just a distraction, and even if the professor knows how to use them without taking up too much time, they still make the class lose focus. I think they're a terrible idea altogether, and I don't think it's good that DoIT is spending so much time on this.

Honestly, I don't see any problem with the clickers we are currently using, and I think it is a waste of time and resources to find a new clicker system.

Just pick one to be piloted in classes.

I just bought my clicker so dont change anything. I dont want to spent more money on clickers than what i already have. please

We bought clickers once, I don't think another fee should be required. Perhaps trading in the one you have for the new one.

just pick something easy to use and effective
students aren't usually the issue- professors are the ones who really need to know how to use them

I did not know that there were significant problems with the current clickers. Since I have already used my clicker for two years I am not willing to spend more of my money on something that I was told would last my college career. If there was a way that students could keep the clickers that they have paid for or get new ones for free while incoming freshmen would have to pay for new clickers as they would anyway then I would be willing to research alternative clickers.

I don't think there's that much of a problem with the clickers we have now. Sometimes there's some minor problems, but I don't think we need to get new ones

DoIT can make the choices.

I do not want to buy another clicker device. thanks!

I personally am content with our current use of clickers.

I don't care, but I'm sure other students would like to give input instead of allowing DoIT to choose.

I would like for no changes to be made. A new system is only going to mean new problems, as DoIT as shown us time and time again. Modifications to the email, class selection process and housing selection process have meant more trouble than they are worth. DO NOT change anything.

i paid an upfront fee to register my clicker permanently for any class i might take i would be very upset if i had to buy and reregister a new clicker

I'd go see what other universities say. By talking to the other institutions you can decide what's best here. I can't image that's they'd be against giving some help to UMBC. That way you wouldn't have to go through quite as many trials and try one that other institutions have found to be more effective than the one we have now.

Just one brand multiple mean we will have to buy multiple clicker and switch it between classes because each faculty would have their preference also the cost of switching clicker every year would add to what we have to pay in term of book and tuition. So one with a discount like the one with have now (pay 3 semester and then it is free) would be good.

Stop using clickers. They are awful. Awful awful awful awful awful. They are infernal pieces of machinery that need to be put down. They make me cry sometimes.

I trust your decision

I do not like the idea of using clickers at all. They are a waste of money.

another brand becuase pilots are such a expensive brand

I don't think the problem is the clicker so much as professors proficiency in their usage as well as actually using them for a meaningful purpose in class.

I think the research should be minimal. Clickers are not a vital aspect in the classroom; the professor is. I feel that the clicker system is helpful, but it is the professor and his/her method of teaching which enhance and provide the educational environment. I think we need to just stick with one system of clickers and stop wasting money to research other methods.

I would prefer that we not use clickers at all.

In this era, these "clickers" are an extremely primitive technology, however, this manufacturer has failed to provide anything close to a workable product. Clearly, the company should be spending more time IN a classroom rather than disturbing the progress of those who already are.

Clickers are not that important in context of the class because they take some time to load up, and then more time is wasted when a student signs in and then the teacher has to wait for everyone else to do the same. I would like to keep the ones we have now to reduce the added hassle of buying another one since students already pay so much in terms of college tuition and books.

A trial and error test should be done with a sample group of students during summer 2009 session for example and then determinations and answers can be determined based on that.

?

I don't want to be involved. Just keep the current clickers and students will learn to live with it. I'm not willing to spend more money than I have to at the bookstore.

Having to buy new clickers for a new "program" seems more of a business opportunity on the school and company's part than actually trying to improve our "learning" experience from using clickers. Clickers have only a limited scope of actually helping students learn, i.e answering questions and such but that is it. It does not seem to make sense on the students part to shell out more money just so they can have a new nifty clicker that answers more different forms of

questions; unless if the function of clickers are drastically different, innovative, and allows student participation in a whole new different way, then maybe it would be useful but that is a big if, and I see no information that it would be innovative in the survey.

I like the idea of using a different clicker due to the problems with the current ones. However, I would like to see some sort of reimbursement for student like myself who already went ahead and purchased clicker access for a 3 semesters of use (around 45 dollars or so I believe). Unless the same payment can be put toward the new clickers I would not want to make the change.

clicker usage should be eliminated, not modified

I just want a clicker that works. It doesn't matter what brand.

Narrow it down to one, using input from this survey. Definitely do not pilot multiple clickers; it's not important enough to make it that complicated.

I honestly don't have many problems with the einstruction clickers. There maybe certain days when it doesn't let the class connect, about twice the semester, but I don't think that it's worth the hassle of trying to find a system. I would not mind being involved if we could find a program that didn't charge for each semester you use, I think buying the clicker is enough.

Clickers such, you charge the students to buy the stupid things, and then you charge them again to enroll in classes with the clickers. Teachers don't know how to correctly use the system, and it seems they're only using them at all because some higher power is pushing them to, not because they think it will actually help. So no I don't think there should be anymore research into something that doesn't help students but only helps fill up stupid pockets with money. Go scam some other school.

Pick one at a time to pilot.

Why do we need clickers anyway?

I believe many students are most worried about how much this process will cost us. All our money goes into buying textbooks each semester and since I already purchased a clicker and also paid a \$50 life time registration fee, I would be highly upset if we had to pay even more just to switch to another device.

Multiple brands should be tested by DoIT first, and then narrow the choices from that, giving students maybe 2 brands to pilot before settling on one.

I also think that students who have the most recent clicker devices should be allowed to trade them in for the new device and only pay a small fraction of the cost, and should not have to repay the cost for the registration fees.

Don't bother, clickers are fine. It's the teacher that need to learn to use them.

If it is easier to simply fix the problems with the clickers that we have now, that is probably the more cost effective option. However, if DoIT has made the decision to switch because of all the problems, it is probably better to focus on only a few other options at first. If teachers are having to try out three or four new clicker systems, it's just going to be a mess.

Personally I like the clickers we have now and don't see a problem with them.

I do not feel that the clicker system needs to be changed, It can be inefficient at times but it works. Also what happens to everyone who paid for the lifetime subscription to einstruction, it is not fair to have to repurchase a service for which we have already paid for. I will absolutely NOT pay for clickers again.

DoIT should handle it.

I am fine with having only one option as long as it is inexpensive and it works. If at all possible I would like the ability to lease a clicker from school instead of having to buy one.

Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 will be my last year at UMBC. I have already bought 2 clickers in the 3 years that I have been going here. I do not intend to buy another clicker. I would rather not receive participation points in my class than buy another clicker and that is saying a lot coming from a student with a 3.7 GPA and a dual major. Students cannot afford to keep spending money on new clickers every other year.

I really do not see a reason to switch the clicker technology, what we have now is pretty functional and reliable. I think extensive research into this will only lead to the loss of money which could go into a better cause.

It would be a waste of money if students have to suddenly switch to a new clicker especially if they paid for a lifetime use clicker.

I don't think students want to be involved in the process-- I know I don't. I wish the clickers were cheaper and used more throughout the classes and I like the idea of professors attending training so clicker use is more efficient and effective instead of wasting time during class trying to fix problems. I only needed a clicker for one class and I felt like it was a waste of money-- especially for how expensive it was, and because the professor stopped using it during the last 3 weeks of class.

We should have multiple brands and pilots to ensure that we are making the best choice possible. Have a class or two where these clickers can be tested - obviously this experiment cannot be done with the whole student population.

Whatever research is done should be free to students or *incredibly* cheap. The clicker I have now is fine and I see no reason for changing. I have already bought two clickers (the old version then the new version) and I do *not* want to buy another one. If they do change clickers the discount should be *very* generous.

In my opinion, clickers of any kind are not worth the price I am paying for them. I have not really benefited in any way from using them, and I did not enjoy having to buy this thing on top of all my text books and then having to re-register it every semester. I think the use of clickers should be discontinued immediately.

We should stop using clickers. They are not necessary or beneficial.

I have only had to use clickers in two classes and there were no major problems. The teachers did seem to know what they were doing with the clickers.

If DoIT wants to change, I want to be reimbursed for paying \$45 for a lifetime use of the Einstruction clickers. I figured I'd have to use clickers in all my major classes for the next 3 years, so that's why I bought it and that's why others did as well. If they're going to change, make it so that the regular clickers can be used as well.

We definitely do not need multiple brands of anything, as that would make things very confusing and likely cost students (and faculty) more money, especially if different classes start using different equipment. I know that using clickers makes the university "look better", but honestly clickers were not that big of a help. My suggestion would be either to stay with the current system or do away with clickers completely. The only benefit of clickers, like with discussion sections for science classes, is that they force students to think about the material in pace with the class rather than a day before the exam. This same end can be accomplished with assigned homeworks, without the hassle, price, and waste of class time. I do not feel significant research should be done into alternate clicker methods, because clickers are not a significant enough aspect of

our classes to merit such.

I don't have a problem with the clickers and in my 300 student class, I can't think of any students that have mentioned a problem with clickers. If they work well, there is not point in adding an extra cost, no matter how small, to students that already have the current version of the clickers.

If the transition were to be absolutely free to students who have already bought clickers it may be worth exploring, but if it were to cost students an extra dime, it is a completely useless exploration. Clickers do not enhance the learning experience at all. Investigating a new solution is a method that simply creates more trash, students need to throw away thousands of clickers already, and if we upgrade that increases the amount of trash that we create. In addition, the equipment we are already using in classrooms may also become trash. This should not be a path that we should be taking as a society that needs to become more sustainable. The clickers also waste a lot of valuable classtime.

I don't have any problems with out current clicker. Students have already paid for this clicker, why do we need to spend even more money to get another?

Don't change clickers.

I think you should just have one clicker and stick with it, paying the registration fee for once clicker is enough - why pay registration fees for multiple classes...thus just pick one clicker.

My suggestion is to use a clicker that has alternate desktop software. That way, students who have laptops and need/can use laptops in class can purchase a clicker without making a separate purchase. Students who do not have a laptop they can bring to class can purchase a low-price clicker alternative. This would lessen the buying spree students need to go on for each course (purchasing a clicker is not the only expense, enrolling online as well is just an added expense to tuition and books). Also, laptops are a novel note taking device that more students could explore if given the chance. These days, many students are already bringing their laptops to class, and using an online clicker solution should not be too hard to implement.

Aside from that, the current clickers are not THAT bad, and if it is a huge hassle to change, the system doesn't need to be changed that badly.

Clickers suck. It has nothing to do with attendance. I have an old clicker and will be a Sr. next year and have no desire to buy a new one just because the technology regarding them sucks. You knew eventually that the blue and white ones would end up working better, so I'm at a lose as to why I was encouraged my Fr. year to buy the old one. The only reason I can think of is so that this school can make me buy another one. I'm a college student and don't have extra money to spend on something I will never use again. Here's an idea...improve the functionality of my.umbc and blackboard instead of worrying how students feel about clickers!

pick one new clicker to use in all of the classes but one that actually works

not extensive

I like the current clickers. Most teachers use them to reward students for coming to class. They are also able to see how well they explained a certain concept based on the feedback.

I really dislike this survey because it assumes that the student supports a switch to other clickers. I do not support switching clickers. I am fine with the clicker I have right now and I have not heard any other student complain about their clicker. A survey is supposed to determine the feelings of the students concerning a problem but this is very biased and does not allow one to do that. I would appreciate a better survey distributed.

Personally, I transferred here from a college that did not use clickers. I feel that unless all problems and malfunctions can be eliminated then clickers should not be used - I do not feel that my learning experience has been any better here (using clickers) than not using clickers. I would go as far to say that I think clickers waste a lot of time that could be used by professors to lecture more or to work out more examples. I feel that clickers are hindering the learning experience for students. Though, if UMBC was going to continue using clickers, I know that I as a student would want to be involved in the process.

Clickers are very gimmicky

Narrow down --> Brief survey --> Result

One to be piloted

Don't bother. There's no cure all anyhow. Just keep with what we have.

Stick with one standard clicker. I would like to see the ones we have working reliably rather than dropping more money on new clickers until you find out what works.

Students are already having difficult times financially on campus, and making them buy new equipment because the University can't make the current equipment, which ought to work fine, work properly, is, frankly, ridiculous. If any transition is going to be made the students should not be made to suffer for it.

No need to research alternative clickers

I do not know. I like the clickers we use now. They have worked fine for me. I do not want to have to buy another or pay for its use when I have the lifetime subscription.

I think that so far, I haven't had such enormous trouble that I'd want to switch. I already paid for my present clicker. I think if we ARE going to switch, I wouldn't have a problem with DoIT doing the work so long as they were thorough. But I would rather switch later rather than sooner and get the most money out of my clicker.

Basically, clickers cost money, and I don't feel that I should have to pay extra on top of the tuition books and other fees we have to pay, for a clicker that does absolutely nothing.

i don't think that it will a good idea to switch to a different type of clicker because some of the students have paid a life time membership with the old ones.

There should be extensive research. These are a big part of a lot of classes and if you are going to make students waste even more money on them they should be the best and cheapest they can be. It is not fair to make those of who have put huge amounts of money into this system spend even more.

I think that the brand of clicker should be the same just so people don't have to worry about buying the wrong one. I also do not think many would want to get involved. So it would be just great if we had a functioning, reliable, cost effective, and easy to use clicker.

N?A

it really doesn't matter to me, however, i dont have the money to be spending on these new products. I think its too expensive as it is! Newer isnt always better, we should stick with what we have, most students are comfortable with these clickers.

The brands should be multiple because as students we tend to get our clickers from older students or students who have already taken that class and so it is a convenience and a money saver if we are allowed to use more than one clicker.

I like the new blue and white clicker. It works quite well. I have had minimal issues with it. however, often times the professors do not understand how to use the clickers and this can cause issues as well as decrease the effectiveness of the clicker uses.

I think the clickers that we have now work fine. I've never had any problems. We definitely shouldn't switch especially if that means that students that already have clickers would need to buy new clickers.

Very little involvement from students should be required.

Different brand options would be great. If there is any way that the clickers could be less expensive, it would help a lot of students, especially in these trying times.

Only a few students need to be involved in this study, most likely from a science class, because in my experience, it's predominately science classes that use clickers. I would be very annoyed if it was my class that was test driving the new clickers and there were problems that cost me points on my grade. I don't think that it's fair to force students to purchase new clickers: since the transition would be while I was still in school, I would have ended up having to pay for two clickers. I already paid a \$50 fee so that I could use my clicker for the full four years, and there is no guarantee that my upper level classes will be large enough to require the use of clickers. Rather than having new clickers, just fix the problems with these. For example, I lost so many points in my class in Lecture Hall 7 because my clicker did not send the answer fast enough. Perhaps you could increase the signal so that they will send faster or send at all from the back of the lecture hall.

While clickers are nice to take data for large classes and for teachers to get a grasp of how students are doing and take attendance, in my experience so far we tend to lose valuable class time while clickers are disfunctional and teachers are trying to fix the problem. I think the learning we could do in this time is more beneficial than the use of clickers in a class room. Switching to a new system even though it maybe be easier or more efficient takes time. I feel like the time that will be sacrificed for the adjustment is also not worth the transition.

Why do you always waste our money? Ask yourself this question first. Clickers are not that useful for starters. Making students that already paid a life time subscription fee buy another clicker device is not going to sit well with the student body. UMBC is getting worse each semester with it's "hidden fees".

The clicker subscription service is wonderful for the company we must pay each semester however it is a burden on students. First you let the textbook industry screw us over and now this "response clicker" industry as well? What is next? A new clicker hardware device every semester because the old one is "out dated?" Seriously folks, stop spending money that is not yours. Also, stop taking kick back offers from Alum and faculty owned companies. Everyone knows what this is about.

There's nothing wrong with the current ones. Why waste money on something that will likely have the same amount of problems, if not more?

Well, I hate to sound "bitchy," but if current students knew how to use clickers, maybe we wouldn't have a problem. I don't want to buy a new clicker, just because some spoiled brat doesn't know how to read. It's that simple. It's a crying shame that I continuously have to be inconvenienced because some little selfish imbecile doesn't want to play fair or play by the rules. I am a single mother of three. I play by the rules, yet I am not even allowed to live on campus. Get it together, people. The current system is satisfactory. People need to learn how to use it. I refuse to spend any more money to placate a bunch of spoiled middle class kids who have their parents paying for their education anyway. End of story.

very, clickers are great, but these current ones are not working well. There should definitely be a discount for students who have already purchased the "lesser" of the two clickers.

For the most part, clickers do what they are designed for which is to get a large group of students to actively participate. If we get new clickers, we should consider the cost for students and the university. Other than that new clickers are really unnecessary.

i don't really have an issue with our current clicker situation. i enjoy getting participation points for using clickers and assessing my stance with academic material through responses to questions, but i do not like the fact that there are occasionally tech. problems with the clickers. i do not see a problem in exploring other clicker options but i don't think it would be necessary to make the students spend approx. another \$25 for a new unit next year.

let DoIT narrow the choices but personally i am fine with the way the current clickers have worked.

Their really shouldnt be any research, i re4ally dont understand the problem with the clickers. I really havent had any problem. and if there is a wider scope of clickers to buy then that would make buying one even harder.

I have been at UMBC since Fall of 2006 and I have recently bought a new clicker (blue and white). I was told that the old clickers have so many problems and if you had one no one was going to help sort it out. I think that the clicker I currently own works very well and I do not see any need for anything more than what it offers. I do think that teachers need training on how to use the program so that they stop wasting fifteen minutes of a fifty minute class trying to figure it out.

Don't change clickers

I think that the clicker system right now is perfect because it is a supplement to our courses, not the main feature. It gives great input into how everyone is understanding the material and allows for class participation. If there were to be research into a new brand, I don't think it should detract too much time and effort while in class.

I have experienced problems with the "old" clickers that are blue and yellow, however the blue and white ones seem to be fine. I would be opposed to new clickers only due to the extended financial obligations

I think that the clickers used at the current times are doable. People are going to be moving into higher classes that will not require a clicker. It would not be right to make everyone buy a new clicker for one semester. If there was a switch made, maybe only the incoming freshmen would be required to buy it. Support the two for awhile, until the current clickers being used pass and all that is left are the new clickers. Keep it to one or two types because it will make everything easier on everyone (students, faculty, workers, etc.).

Not much because some of us have paid for lifetime subscriptions for our clickers and we would have to pay extra money if new clickers were to be implemented. Students should be reimbursed money if the clickers are switched.

I believe that enough research should be done so that the majority of the UMBC population is pleased with the efficiency and effectiveness of the clickers. I'd suggest having a one to two-week trial period allowing students to get used to the new clickers to see if the clickers are worthwhile and effective. This would allow students to give input while conveying the capability of the clickers to DoIT. In addition, I believe that there should only be one clicker used universally for all classes. This would limit confusion and be easier for students and staff.

