

NoteBowl is a social learning platform for higher education that puts courses and the campus community into one place. Our vision is to give students, professors, and administrators one location where they can access information, communicate with each other, and engage their university. With a modern and intuitive feel, NoteBowl improves institutional efficiency and increases student success, both inside and outside the classroom.

NB KEY FEATURES



HANGOUTS ON AIR: Allows professors to broadcast lectures to up to 1 million users, who can interact by asking questions. Broadcasts are automatically saved to NoteBowl for later viewing.



MOBILE: Users will be able to access all of our features via our intuitive mobile apps on iOS and Android. Push notifications from the calendar will be customizable to each student's preferences.



ANONYMOUS QUESTIONS: Students can ask a question anonymously on the bulletin and receive answers from their peers or from their professor. Questions are only anonymous to other students, not to the professor.



HANGOUTS: Use our integrated Google Hangouts to work on a group project, talk to a professor during office hours, or start a study session with fellow students.



BULLETIN: The real time feed keeps students up to date on what matters in their class, with highlighted posts from professors and TA's in addition to other posts from classmates.



MESSAGES: Users have the ability to instant message each other on the platform, which enables communication in and out of the classroom.



GROUPS: Create private groups to study for a test, work on a class project, or organize your extra-curricular club's members.



CALENDAR: Syncs a user's personal Google Calendar or iCal with event notifications for their classes & public calendars to which the user has subscribed.



AGENDA: See a list of upcoming assignments, quizzes and tests pulled from class syllabi and automatically sync with Google Calendar and iCal.



VIDEO: Upload a video or post a Youtube video directly on the platform. Organize and share private videos from YouTube.



SEARCH: Easily access and search for information using an intuitive search bar. Results can be filtered by type.



GOOGLE DOCUMENTS: An open office productivity suite that allows for real-time editing by multiple collaborators.

SECURITY & TECHNOLOGY

Since security of student data is paramount, we take every precaution possible to ensure the integrity of that data. To this end, we are PCI compliant and we comply with all guidelines set out by FERPA. We use secure socket layers to transport all data both internally and externally. All data stored by NoteBowl is encrypted upon transport and then again when stored. NoteBowl's database servers sit behind two firewalls and all internal services require two-factor authentication to be reached. Student data is never in a non-encrypted state. Technologically, NoteBowl is a cloud-based service utilizing Amazon Web Services and developed using PHP and Ruby on Rails for some API components, both of which are modern programming languages trusted by developers.



A LETTER FROM MICHELE NORIN, CIO AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA



"As universities try to keep up with attracting, retaining and graduating more students, connecting with students' mobile lifestyles and offering quality educational experiences for an increasing number of remote learners, the critical nature of information technology to meet these demands has never been more important than it is to today's higher education institutions.

Developing new software products is not always easy but your entrepreneurial and steadfast efforts to develop a tool that students and instructors can use to enhance the classroom experience are starting to pay off. The pilots that were conducted with several of our summer classes were a complete success. I expect the same result as more faculty use Notebowl in the upcoming fall and spring sessions.

NoteBowl, a student-run development initiative has proven to be an absolute success as your team turned an idea into reality over the past year and ultimately created a tool that is having a direct impact on students - by students for students. I look forward to working with you further, if and as the adoption rate within the UA community grows."

SUMMER PILOTS

NoteBowl completed three pilots this summer during Pre-Session, Summer I, and Summer II. Here are some details:

- Pre-Session: Professor Jim Mclean's MGMT 356 class with 27 students; 2.5 weeks; in-person lecture; previously used Blackboard
- Summer I: Professor Christina Schoch's SERP 524 class with 22 students; 4 weeks; hybrid in-person and online; previously used D2L
- Summer II: Professor Bryan Carter's AFAS 200 class with 23 students; 4 weeks; online lecture; previously used D2L

PRODUCT VALIDATION

For each pilot, NoteBowl conducted a pre- and post-class survey, asking students to evaluate their experience with the platform and compare it to other LMS's they have used before. 72 students completed the pre-class survey and 58 students finished the post-class survey. Here are a few exciting results:

- 89% of students and all three piloting professors would recommend using NoteBowl to others
- 54% agreed or strongly agreed that they felt more comfortable asking questions in class because they could do so anonymously
- Students rated NoteBowl a 4.2 out of 5 in overall ease of use, which was about 20% higher than they rated D2L and Blackboard

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

PILOT OVERVIEW

GOALS

- Create a simple online classroom environment
- Allow classroom to communicate more effectively
- Reduce redundancy and increase efficiency in course management

DETAILS

- 72 students
- Course types: in-person, hybrid, and online
- LMS Integration
- WebAuth
- 24/7 support

FEATURE USAGE

- Bulletin (i.e. activity feed)
 - Documents
 - Assignments
 - Grades
 - Google Hangouts (used for office hours)
 - Google Hangouts on Air (used for broadcasted lectures)
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