Overview of the NODE survey
The NODE survey is administered annually by Dr Lisa Cluett and Dr Judy Skene from UWA Student Services as part of ongoing efforts to actively engage students online.

The survey was initially part of the NODE project (Network Online to Diversify Engagement) which also developed an internally hosted online social network for UWA students. In 2009 the node.live community was moved to the UWA Students Facebook fan page at www.facebook.com/UWAStudents

The survey continues to run annually with approximately 4000 students surveyed each year and an average response rate of 24% (792 respondents in the 2008-09 survey).

Ownership of devices
- 72% of respondents own a laptop (up from 57% in the 06-07 survey)
- 95% of students who use the internet ‘at home’ (whether at their parents’ home, in a share house or in their own house) have a broadband connection (up from 88% in 06-07)
- 99% of respondents own a mobile phone which is consistent with the 06-07 level of 98%
- 42% of students surveyed in 2006 owned a mobile device with internet capabilities. This question will be re-run in the 2009-10 survey.

Experiences with emerging technologies
What tools are UWA First Years using?
First Year students in 2008 said:
- YouTube (89% in ’08 up from 67% in ’06)
- wikis (inc Wikipedia) (87% in ’08 up from 80% in ’06)
- discussion boards (79% in ’08 up from 66% in ’06)
- IM (73% compared to almost 80% in ’06)
- Facebook (68% in ’08)
- blogs (56% in ’08 up from 42% in ’06)
- MySpace (47% in ’08 down from 59% in ’06)
- lists and news alerts (33% in ’08)
- podcasts (25% in ’08 and 24% in ’06)
- RSS (12% in ’08 and ’06)

What should UWA use to complement teaching?
First Year students in 2008 said:
- Forums and discussion boards (83%)
- Podcasts (52%)
- Wiki tools (51%)
- YouTube (40%)
- Lists and news alerts (37%)
- Instant messaging (IM) (35%)
- Blogs (24%)
- RSS (23%)
- Facebook (21%)
- MySpace (10%)
Students, ICT and Teaching and Learning
What technologies do students access during their studies (either provided by lecturers, used during assignments or accessed as part of group work)?

First Year students in 2008 said:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tecnology</th>
<th>Used</th>
<th>Help Them Learn</th>
<th>Enjoyed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lectopia</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WebCT</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS Powerpoint</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion boards</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course web page</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Podcasts</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blogs</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social networking</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students demonstrated that they advocate a sensible, considered use of ICT in teaching and engagement and warned against ‘using technology for the sake of it’. More specifically, whilst 85% of respondents agree that they like to use ICT for studying and like lecturers to incorporate it into teaching, they also said that they learn better from face-to-face delivery (79%) and prefer learning face-to-face (83%).

75% expect ICT to be used more as they progress through their course/degree and 68% of respondents would like to receive training in ICT to improve their study techniques.

Student comments in the 2008-09 survey were focused on:
1. Asking for more Lectopia recordings of lectures
   91% expect ALL of their lectures to be recorded in some way

2. Commenting on usability issues of some systems (WebCT, UWA Website and OLCR included)
   Students commented on the use of WebCT by their lecturers and on its accessibility

3. Some concerns were raised that will hopefully be fixed with the introduction of UWA Google apps
   List includes stability of webmail, storage capacity, internet quotas, single sign-on, email forwarding etc

4. Requesting greater access to IT systems and services
   Students want extended wireless coverage, access to more computers, faster internet speeds etc

Other useful resources
- TechNODE bulletin overview document—gives more information on the NODE project and surveys
- Full report for the 2006-07 survey is available online
- NODE project webpage containing all project documents and contact information

This bulletin should be referenced as:

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