Delivering Effective Hybrid Classes

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Who we are

Steven Muegge

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Fred Dixon

● Project Manager, BigBlueButton
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Where we are today
Advantages

Reduce classroom density

Students to join with no travel time (class and office hours)

Introduces more of the social aspect of learning (as opposed to fully online and only watching a lecture)

Easier for students to build a relationship with each other
Challenges

Remote students feel disconnected

Cognitively more challenging for the instructor to bridge both teaching mediums (as opposed to everyone online, or everyone physically in the classroom).
What are the challenges you experience with Hybrid Classes?

Type them into the chat
Room Setup

Microphone
- Yeti microphone (omnidirectional to pick up the class)

Camera placement
- Provide online students with a camera to view the audience

Speaker
- Use an external speaker to enable students in the class to hear remote students

Viewing remote students
- Have them visible to you (back wall or on a monitor)
Best practices

Breakout rooms
- Get students to introduce themselves to each other at the start of the course
- Encourage students to collaborate with each other in group projects

Flip the classroom
- Get remote students engaged in the class

Have a helper monitor the online class
- Nominate someone in the class to monitor online students
Use a phone and webcam to time student's speech
What have you found that works well for teaching online?

Type them into the chat
BigBlueButton

Open Source Virtual Classroom
Better online learning leads to a better world
Where we have come from?

Born in the classroom
- Carleton University created BigBlueButton in 2007 as web conferencing systems were not designed for virtual classrooms

Open Source
- Developers and teachers from around the world can collaborate together to improve it

Global adoption skyrocketed during pandemic
- Millions of teachers and students are using BigBlueButton during the Pandemic.
Why BigBlueButton?

Integration
- The top learning management systems - Moodle, Canvas, Schoology, D2L, and Sakai - have all embedded BigBlueButton as their default classroom

Focus
- BigBlueButton is designed for one user in mind: the teacher

Engagement
- The project is constantly evolving with more pedagogical features to increase engagement with students
Embedded into the world’s top LMS systems

Canvas Conferences  
Instructure

Schoology Conferences  
Schoology

Virtual Classroom  
D2L

BigBlueButtonBN  
Moodle

Meeting Tool  
Sakai
Moodle

Used by 20,000 Moodle sites around the world (according to moodle.org)

2nd most downloaded plugin overall (out of 1,400)

Work is underway to incorporate BigBlueButton into the core of Moodle itself
Huge increase in hosting

Blindside Networks hosting increased 50x in the last 12 months.

Thousands of schools are using Schoology Conferences and Canvas Conferences every day.

Some deployments, such as OCPS, run over 50k+ concurrent students each day.
Helping educators around the world

Baden-Württemberg, a state in southwest Germany, runs a cluster of 4,000 BigBlueButton servers that hosts over 150,000 concurrent students!
Classroom management

Lock settings enables teachers to control what features students can use during your lessons.
How can BigBlueButton help with hybrid classes?

- Multi-user whiteboard
- Shared Notes
- Breakout rooms
- Polling
- Raise Hand
- Public/private chat
Bloom's Taxonomy

1. Remember
2. Understand
3. Apply
4. Analyze
5. Evaluate
6. Create
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Usability

- **Usability**
  - Raise Hand notifications
  - Background uploading of slides
  - Network quality indicator
  - Audio alerts for users in waiting room
Engagement

- **Engagement**
  - Per-user whiteboard
  - Typed responses to polling questions
  - Randomly choose a user
Typed Responses for polling

Students are prompted to enter their response to a poll

Instructor can see all the results
Per user whiteboard

Give specific students ability to write on the whiteboard
Randomly choose a user

- Upload a presentation
- Initiate a poll
- Share Youtube video
- Randomly select a user

Randomly select a user

Tyler Copeland

Select again
Thanks to the build in integrations

LMS

BigBlueButton

LMS

One click, no software to install

“The interface is easy to use and reads like a book from left to right”

View recordings and analytics
Blindside networks

Commercial hosting for BigBlueButton

blindssidenetworks.com
Summary

At 8:30 AM the world starts teaching with BigBlueButton

- We are a global community
- The product is localized into over 65 languages

Blindside Networks provides commercial hosting and support

- Contact us if your using Canvas, Schoology, Moodle or other LMS and we’ll show you how your teachers can deliver more effective online classes.