

What about... capturing the whiteboard?

Topic Summary

Most lecture capture systems are not intended to capture what is written on flipcharts, whiteboards or chalkboards. The camera's focus is usually on the lectern, and even if the lecturer is able to change the camera's view, its resolution is usually too low to capture any writing clearly. However, many lecturers regularly use whiteboards (or similar objects). This document suggests some adaptations which could be made to capture things which normally are lost in the recording.

Resource Summary

Topic: Whiteboard input

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Target audience: Practitioners, staff developers

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Things to Consider

- If it goes through the computer, it will usually be captured.
- Most lecturers do not intend for their captured lectures to replace live attendance, but there will always be students who have legitimate absences. Additionally, having more material captured even for revision purposes is a good idea.
- Most students use captures to revise, so capturing whiteboard-type data does not necessarily have to occur immediately (i.e. be captured by the automated system)

Practical Suggestions

- Writing on paper through a visualizer or document camera (if captured) is very straightforward.
- Use Word, PowerPoint, LaTeX, image suites or other software, depending on the nature of the material to be captured.
- Smartboards may be captured, or at least saved as sharable files.
- Tablet input, Symposiums or "magic pen" systems like Papershow, etc. can be used to synthesize drawn and written elements on-screen (such as mathematical graphs).
- Take photos of the whiteboard, flipchart, etc. and display them on the projector during the lecture, or uploading them post-lecture to the VLE.
- Desktop capture may be used (with a webcam positioned to view the writing surface) to record key information post-lecture, for example difficult solutions or important charts.

Resources

ELTAC document: What About... capturing student interaction?
ELTAC Exemplar: Phil Ansell, Newcastle University (Maths and Stats)
<http://cuba.coventry.ac.uk/lecturecapture/exemplars>

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