

On June 2, 2009 ISDA sent out a survey to the entire MIT student population, and received 881 completed responses (approximately 8% of the total MIT student population). The survey consisted of twenty-four questions about the use of Stellar, and yielded the following information:

Use of Stellar

- 53% of students were engineering majors (page 1) and 43% of students replied that they were graduate or PhD students (page 2).
- **88% of the students replied that more than half or all their classes used Stellar** (page 2).
- The majority of students replied that they log into Stellar several times a day (page 2).
- 76% of the students surveyed had not ever used a project site or Wiki page (page 2).

Strengths and Weaknesses of Stellar tools

- The students responded that they used the materials and homework tools more often than any of the other tools (page 3).
- The students said they use the calendar and forum tools the least and found these tools to be the most difficult and cumbersome to use (page 4). The majority of students responded that the calendar and forum tools were cumbersome because their professors never used them and they didn't understand how to use them (page 5).
- **The students felt that Stellar was most helpful in its easy access to materials they needed.**
- 81% of students at MIT use email to communicate with their professors (page 6).
- **60% of the students replied that they used Google Docs as the main collaboration tool for academic purposes** (page 7).

Textbook Information

- 82% of students were unaware of online textbook information
- MIT Coop and Amazon are the main sources of textbook purchases

Problems with Stellar

- **A majority of students responded that they've had trouble with logging into Stellar.**
- Many students commented that they feel Stellar is very slow when loading pages.
- **Many stated that they have had problems in the past uploading homework** (page 9).
- Students responded that when they encountered a problem with Stellar they usually solved it on their own or went to friends or professors for help (page 10).

Gradebook

- **28% of students that have experienced gradebook said they had only had one class that used the gradebook tool** (page 11).
- The majority of students that have used the tool said they used the gradebook tool around one to two times a month.
- **The students said that the gradebook tool was used primarily in classes with around 50 to 150 students in the class but they said the larger class size did not make it harder to use the gradebook tool.**
- Students said they mainly use the gradebook tool to view assignment grades (pages 11-12).

Final Comments

- **A common theme in the comments was that students would like professors to make wider use of Stellar, especially the Gradebook.**
- There were nineteen negative responses and 14 positive responses (13-15).