Supporting the use of technology in teaching: The campus-wide Catalyst Initiative was launched on February 1, 1999 to encourage innovation in teaching and learning through the use of technology. We accomplish this through the Catalyst Web site, an anytime-anywhere resource, which also serves as the foundation for Catalyst workshops and one-on-one consulting in the Center for Teaching, Learning, & Technology. Here is a brief overview of our popular Catalyst Web Tools and the services offered in our Center.

### catalyst web tools

We developed the Catalyst Web Tools to enhance the student learning experience through collaboration and communication, to address diverse learning styles, and to provide opportunities for out-of-class learning. Any UW instructor can use them by pointing a Web browser to the Catalyst Tools Web site: [http://catalyst.washington.edu/tools](http://catalyst.washington.edu/tools)

#### Portfolio v 1.0 new!!

Guide students as they reflect on their work and present their skills in an online portfolio.

- Students can collect artifacts from their UW work and personal interests online, and highlight their skills and accomplishments in multiple portfolios.
- Instructors and advisors can help students reflect on their work by providing comments and feedback.
- Portfolios can be published on the Web, and shared with employers, graduate schools, instructors, family, or friends.
- Instructors and advisors can create Portfolio projects and distribute them to classes, groups, or specific students.

#### SimpleSite v 1.0

Create template-based Web pages and instantly publish them online to your UW account.

- Save and edit template-based Web pages with changes showing up immediately.
- Grant others permission to edit content on your site.
- Easily configure security options for your Web site.
- Automatically generate statistics about visitors to your Web site.
- Completely control the look of your Web pages by using the built-in stylesheet editor.

#### VirtualCase v 1.0

Provide students with an online environment in which they can collaborate to solve problems.

- Participants collaborate to find solutions to complex problems.
- Problem-solving tools include shared and private files, notes, images, URLs, and discussion boards.
- Participants can work in groups or individually.
- Problems unfold as decisions are made by participants.
**EPost v1.0**
Create an online discussion board for your class.
- Web-based interface allows students to exchange ideas anytime and anywhere.
- Convenient sorting, searching, and archiving options for messages.
- Students can use pseudonyms to encourage frank discussion.
- Owners can delete student messages.

**QuickPoll v1.0**
Conduct simple surveys that provide instant graphical results.
- Create informative, one-question surveys for your Web site.
- Cut and paste the survey into your Web page – Quickpoll writes the HTML for you.

**Peer Review v2.0**
Let your students review and comment on one another’s work.
- Participants can comment on multiple levels of a document -- sentence, paragraph, or the entire document.
- Students can upload their own text or HTML documents, link to a URL, or copy and paste text.
- Multiple assignments allow students to submit multiple documents for review.
- Instructors may create groups so that members can work on documents together.
- Documents and comments can be edited online.

**WebQ v2.0**
Generate online quizzes, surveys, and questionnaires.
- Choose from nine fully editable question types, such as multiple choice, short answer, or select all that apply.
- Use images and HTML formatting to customize your survey.
- Enjoy full reporting functionality – results are summarized and can be downloaded to Excel or SPSS.

**UMail v1.0**
Receive candid feedback from your students.
- Create an anonymous feedback form on your Web site.
- Email can be sent to TAs as well as instructors.
- Get feedback you might not otherwise hear.

**E-Submit v1.0**
Collect homework assignments on the Web.
- Allow students to turn in documents electronically over the Web.
- Stop wrestling with email attachments or FTP.
- Just click on a link to view documents online or download the whole set.

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**Innovative.**
**Winner 2002 EDUCAUCE Award for Teaching & Learning**

The Catalyst Initiative recently received the 2002 Global Junior Challenge Award, earned the Accenture - MIT Digital Government Award for UW, and helped UW achieve the first ever EDUCAUSE Award for Systemic Progress in Teaching and Learning.

**2002 Global Junior Challenge Award Recipient**

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**where can I go for help?**

The Center for Teaching, Learning, & Technology is open weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with consultants on duty to give you one-on-one help. We are located in Odegaard Undergraduate Library, Room 230. Just drop in and we will be happy to help you with your teaching-related projects. We will even teach you how to create a course Web site, scan photographs and artwork, and burn compact discs to archive projects.

Our instructional services are absolutely free and available to all campus educators. We offer the following:

- General workshops on HTML and Web publishing and the Catalyst Tools.
- Custom workshops for your department’s faculty, staff, and TAs about integrating technology into their courses.
- Five-minute presentations at departmental meetings outlining all of our services.
- Drop-in sessions at the Center where our knowledgeable consultants can help you enhance existing projects, find answers to technical questions, and offer time-saving tips and tricks.

For more information, please contact us at 206-616-8154, send email to catalyst@u.washington.edu, or visit http://catalyst.washington.edu
University of Washington students now have an exciting new online tool that helps them organize and reflect upon their time at UW. The Catalyst Portfolio tool allows students to collect their work, collaborate with instructors and advisors, and present their accomplishments on the Web.

**COLLECT**

Portfolio provides an online space where students can collect all of the artifacts from their UW education, from formal course work to objects of personal significance. Students have complete control over the structure of their collection and who can access it.

**REFLECT**

Students can use the tool to reflect upon artifacts in their collection so that they can understand their learning more fully. The tool allows instructors, advisors, and peers to provide guidance and comments to help the students think about the artifacts in their collection and to assemble a portfolio that shows personal development or demonstrates skills.

**PRESENT**

Students can present their portfolios on the Web to a variety of audiences, including prospective employers, graduate school representatives, parents and friends. Students can personalize the look and feel of portfolios and publish them to the Web without learning HTML programming or complex software.
Freshman Interest Group (FIG) Program  
Web Portfolio Pilot Project

Project Overview  
**WHO:** 3250 first-quarter freshmen enrolled in 162 FIGs  
**WHAT:** engaged in self-reflective web-based portfolio exercises  
**WHEN:** 10-week fall quarter 2002  
**WHERE:** University of Washington, Seattle  
**WHY:** to help facilitate students' transition into the university community  
**HOW:** Catalyst’s "Portfolio” tool

Project Description  
In Autumn 2002, the UW's Freshman Interest Group (FIG) program, Educational Technology Development Group (ETDG, home of Catalyst web tools), and Program for Educational Transformation Through Technology (PETTT) collaborated to introduce the newly developed Catalyst Portfolio tool to the entering freshman class. Approximately 3250 new UW freshmen enrolled in 162 FIGs (approximately 70% of the total freshman class) were required to submit portfolio entries in response to topics covered in their University Community class, a 2-credit course included in each FIG and facilitated by an undergraduate Peer Instructor (a.k.a., “FIG Leader”). Topics covered in the class and subsequently reflected upon through the Portfolio tool included reflections on high school, diversity on campus, social issues/group dialogue, academic planning, and the development of a personal mission statement.

Project Purposes  
To support the established goal of the University Community class: easing students' transition into the social and academic life of the University through peer group discussions and reflections on their first quarter experiences

To evaluate the contribution of the Portfolio tool insofar as it supports the goals of the FIG program and to evaluate overall students' interactions with and impressions of using web-based portfolio applications

Student Responses  
“I liked how my FIG Leader always wrote back because it showed that she was interested in getting to know us and our opinions.”

“The portfolio was a good way to write down how we felt about the discussions we had in class. I am a very quiet person and this was a way for me to express how I felt.”

“It really helped me to expand on topics discussed in class and see their purpose.”

“The portfolio was very organized and I liked having a prompt to help guide my writing.”

“I thought the portfolios tied the FIG program all together and forced us to reflect on what we really learned! Also, now we have it online to look at whenever we want to!”

“I liked that the portfolio saved on paper costs; saving the environment is a GOOD thing.”

“The portfolio shows what I have learned and thought about during my freshman year. It will be interesting to look back at it in future years.”

Lessons Learned  
An evaluation of the program is still in its preliminary stages. If you would like to learn more about the FIG program and its use of web-based portfolios, please contact Jason Johnson, Associate Director of First Year Programs, jej@u.washington.edu.
The University of Washington provides award-winning service and support for instructors, staff, and students who incorporate technology into their teaching. With a strong culture of collaboration, UW combines the efforts of several campus units to create integrated solutions for instructors, staff, students, and the community.

MyUW is an integrated portal created by UW Computing & Communications that provides information and services to the UW community.

- Students use MyUW to register for classes, check tuition balances, access email, and read news and information.
- Faculty check class lists, order textbooks, and work on Web sites.
- Staff access payroll, benefits, and professional development information

Catalyst, developed by Educational Partnerships and Learning Technologies is an educational initiative designed to support innovation in teaching and learning through the use of technology.

Catalyst provides services to instructors and students free of charge, including:

- Workshops on topics related to teaching with technology
- Web-based tools for UW instructors
- Drop-in consulting at the Center for Teaching, Learning, & Technology
- A Web site that provides help and features innovative uses of technology

The Program for Educational Transformation Through Technology (PETTT) is the campus unit that facilitates strong connections between research, design, and practice in order to encourage thoughtful and innovative uses of educational technology.

- PETTT participates in the research and development of UW learning technologies.
- Focusing on the sciences of learning, PETTT provides development resources and expert consulting on learning technologies.
- PETTT fosters a deeper understanding of how learning happens in real settings by conducting pilot studies and focus groups, and designing large-scale studies of campus

http://myuw.washington.edu

http://catalyst.washington.edu

http://depts.washington.edu/pettt
Center for Teaching, Learning & Technology

Catalyst, developed at the Center for Teaching, Learning & Technology, is an educational initiative designed to support innovation in teaching and learning through the use of technology. The Catalyst initiative provides services through the Catalyst Web site (http://catalyst.washington.edu) and the Center itself (Odegaard Library, Room 230).

The Catalyst Initiative recently earned the 2002 Global Junior Challenge Award for the University of Washington.

The Catalyst Web site:

Profiles feature UW educators using, and sometimes wrestling with, technology in their teaching.

Learning pages describe professional development opportunities for UW faculty, librarians, TAs, and instructional staff. Activate your existing skills with focused training, peer discussion, and personalized consultations.

Teaching pages explore the technologies that can be used to achieve teaching goals such as promoting collaboration or addressing diverse learning styles.

Action Plans are project-oriented road maps for integrating technology into teaching.

How-To materials make it easy to complete technological tasks with step-by-step instructions, helpful hints, and important cautions.

Web Tools are a collection of Internet-based applications for teaching, custom designed by the Catalyst team. Set up electronic discussion lists, course Web sites, online surveys, and more.

The Center:

Come visit us at the Center for Teaching, Learning & Technology to find out what we can do for you. We offer many services to campus educators, including general and custom departmental workshops, drop-in technology clinics, and one-on-one consulting. Located in the Odegaard Undergraduate Library, Room 230, we're open from 9 to 5 every weekday.

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