Technically Speaking 9-29-14

Faculty friends,

**BigBlueButton & Collaborate**

BigBlueButton or BBB is the video-conferencing tool within Canvas that most of our online classes have been using.

I have updated my webpage with BBB info including Basics, Best Practices, and Troubleshooting: <http://tech4social.weebly.com/big-blue-button-bbb-or-canvas-conferences.html>

 

Since BBB is a separate company from Canvas — thus a secondary vendor for Baylor — and relative new and small, we have experienced some issues with its use.

I have been working with several of you on these (thanks, Sam), Canvas, other people on campus, and even the BBB CEO to try to resolve these.

BBB has rolled out version 2.0 and will continue to make modifications and upgrades (they have a record button that is sometimes there and sometimes not); unlike Canvas where Baylor implements modifications at the semester, we don’t have control on when these changes take place.

Also, there is an issue with Macs using BBB that causes disconnection if the keyboard volume is adjusted that they are working to correct (you can make adjustments before joining the session).

**BlackBoard Collaborate**

BlackBoard Collaborate (another video-conferencing tool, more geared toward whiteboard functionality) has also been added to Canvas; you can access it by going to Settings > Navigation, and then dragging it up to make it visible.

More info on Collaborate can be found here: <http://tech4social.weebly.com/blackboard-collaborate.html>

**PowToon for Video-Conferencing**

My GAs have helped put together this PowToon animated video on tips for video-conferencing: <http://www.powtoon.com/show/bOaq8qZOIrN/conference-call-steps>

Feel free to share with your students.



You can create your own content like it for free at PowToon.com — you just drag and drop images and insert text and transitions.

Here’s a tutorial video: <http://youtu.be/bRqO5MasiFk>

Until next week,

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