



Faculty Forum

From the Faculty Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning

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Do You Know About Net Op in the EC's?

A few years ago, WCU began to ride the crest of its reputation as an unusually "wired" campus, a university where educational technology significantly enhances the teaching and learning environment. Today, we have even more hardware and software, along with Instructional Technology Services to help faculty use technology in their courses and classrooms. As a faculty member, are you taking advantage of this?

For example, did you know that WCU has 10 electronic classrooms (EC's) spread between Belk, Coulter, Forsyth, Killian, and Stillwell? In each EC there is a computer for each student and a computer station for the teacher. Each computer has access to the Internet and to a networked laser printer, and each room has access to a color scanner, a VCR, a DVD player, and a hardcopy overhead presenter, all interfaced with sound capabilities and a large color-capable screen. Faculty may teach their classes in these rooms after they have reserved the rooms through IT Services.

If you already teach in electronic classrooms, you are familiar with its inherent classroom management problem: students not on task during class but cruising the Internet, playing solitaire, or chatting and/or e-mailing with friends while you are trying to keep everyone on task. Did you know that three years ago IT Services installed software called NetOp in each of these EC's? With NetOp, in addition to being able to view what each student is doing on his or her computer, you can disable or enable the student computers as you deem necessary, depending upon the curriculum you are teaching. You can turn off all the computers when class starts. You can leave the student computers on but, when the class starts, disable each student station by clicking on two buttons in the NetOp Teacher console. You can also use NetOp to isolate and turn Internet access off and on, leaving other software operable. When the time comes in your curriculum for your students to do five minutes of research on the Internet, with one click you can enable all the computers again. After five minutes, you can temporarily disable the computers to regain control of your class. Then you can select one student at a time and display what that student has found during his or her five minutes of research.

If you would like to get each student in your class to critique one paragraph of a specific paper you can "pass the chalk" to each student and have an individual annotate what is exceptional and what could be revised and improved. If you have a PowerPoint slide of an animal cell, you can "pass the chalk" to each student to identify each of the

different parts of the cell. These are simply two examples of how NetOP educational technology can enhance your classroom learning environment.

The potential for NetOp to assist you in the teaching and learning process is almost limitless. Decide first what you want NetOp to do for you and then become familiar with the use of the software. Below is a list of the most common uses of the software:

- Disable or enable student stations
- Display what is on the instructor's station to each student station
- Display the exemplary work of one student to the entire class
- Provide a class assignment where each student participates in the project
- Distribute a digital copy of an assignment to each computer in the room
- Collect a digital copy of the completed assignments
- Send a computer message to a single student to please get back on task
- Temporarily disable the browsers to limit Internet use on the computers
- Restart all the student computers when the class starts
- Shut down all the student computers when the class ends

The Coulter Faculty Center and Information Technology are offering three workshops this fall on how to use NetOp. During these sessions, you will see how to perform the tasks listed above as well as have an opportunity to work with the product yourself. Please go to <http://www.wcu.edu/it/workshops/display.asp?qryid=NetOp> to register for one of the NetOp workshops. If the sessions listed do not fit your schedule, please call Sue Grider (2279) or e-mail her at sgrider@email.wcu.edu for a one-on-one session.

If you already use NetOp and have discovered a use for it not covered in the list above, please respond to this [Faculty Forum](#) piece and share your knowledge with the rest of us. If you are intrigued by the description of this technology but are completely new to it, sign up for one of the IT workshop sessions. Get involved. (Did you know that in addition to the EC's, Western has over 120 demonstration classrooms which have an instructor station and large projection screen at the front of the room?) Use WCU's technology to make your job and the students' work easier and more productive. If you haven't already started making technology work for you, why not start today?

Sue Grider, Instructional Training Specialist, Coulter Faculty Center

The opinions printed here belong solely to the authors and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the editorial staff or of the Faculty Center. If you would like to respond, e-mail Nienhuis by the 8th of the month.

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Response to "Do You Know About Net Op in the EC's?," by Sue Grider, 11/1/06

I need to make a point of clarification. If a faculty member wants to use an electronic classroom for the entire semester, that faculty member needs to let his or her administrative assistant know this so that the administrator can input the information into Banner/Resource 25. If a faculty member wants to use an electronic classroom sporadically, then the faculty member needs to contact Traci Settlemyre with the specific date, time and class information.

Sue Grider, Instructional Training Specialist, Coulter Faculty Center