



Wireless Student Print Solution: Continuing Developments



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Background:

During the past several years, our school has gradually implemented a “wireless print solution” to allow students to print course materials that are distributed electronically via a web-based course management platform, SOLE (Secure On-Line Environment, developed by and licensed from West Virginia University).



The goal was to reduce paper handouts that required manual distribution for each lecture while allowing students to print materials that they considered essential for their learning style.

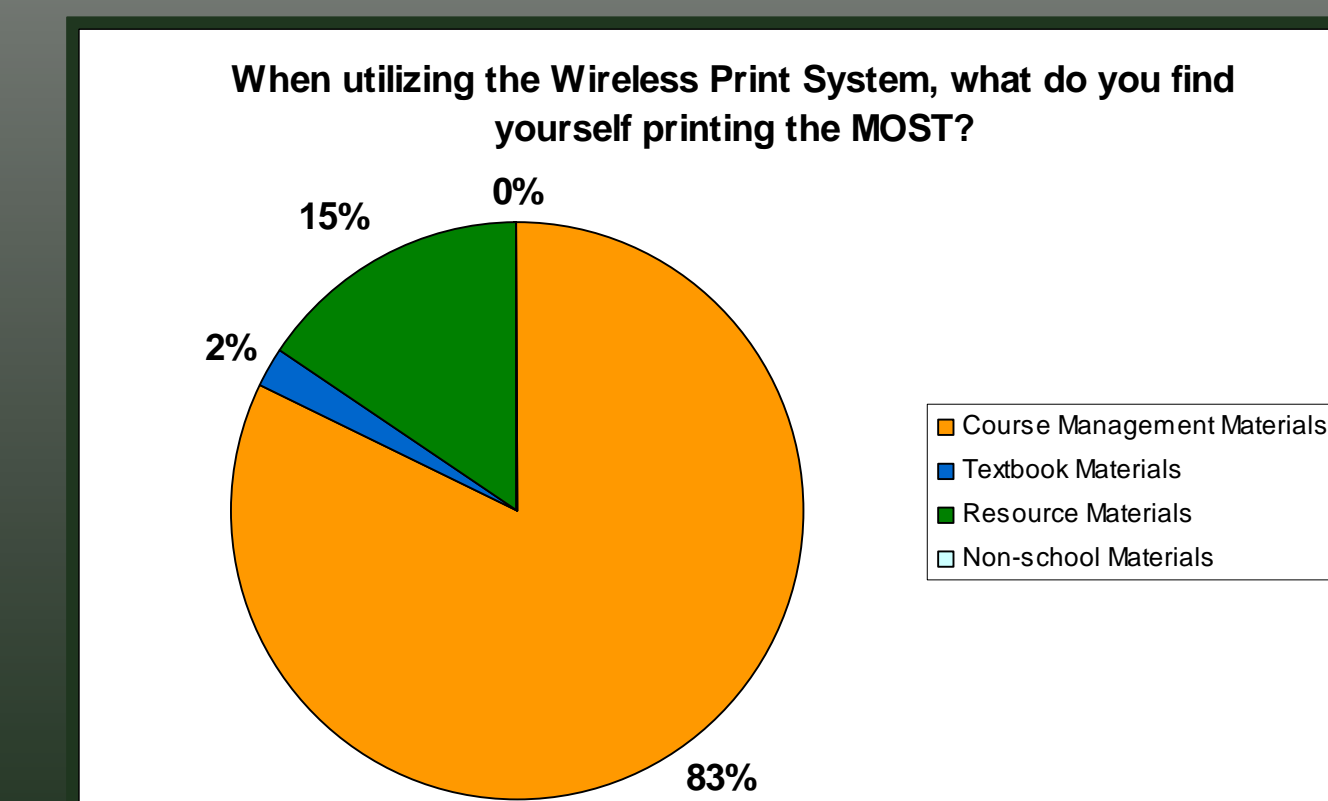
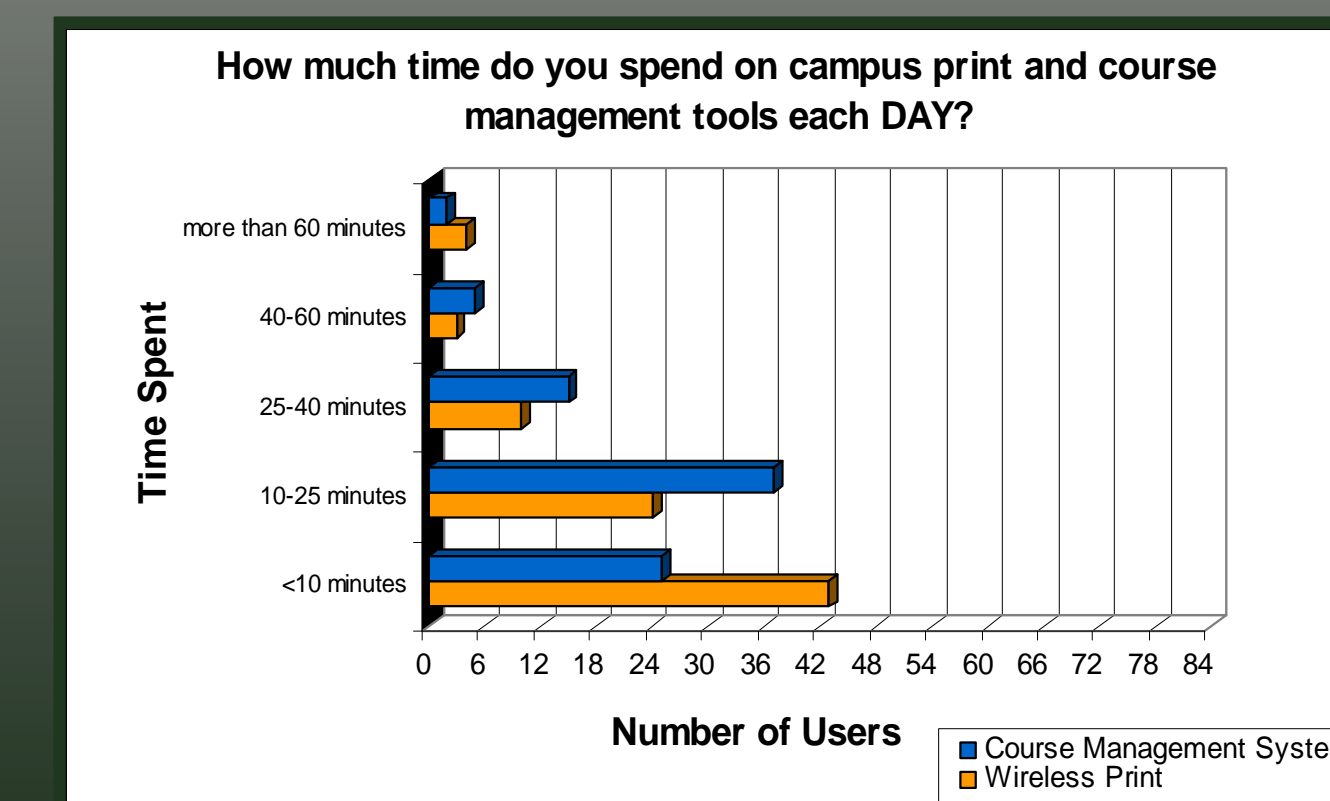
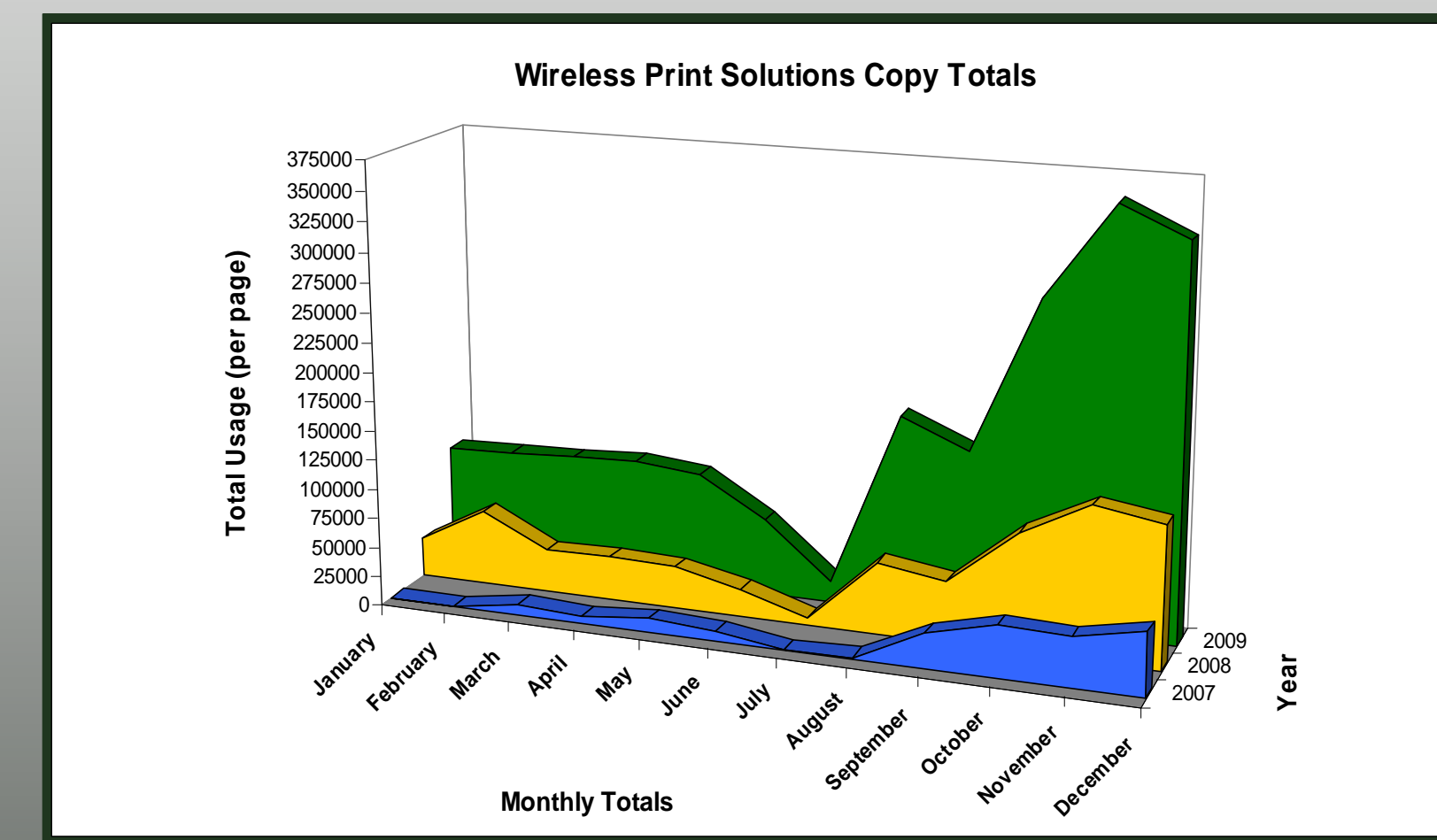
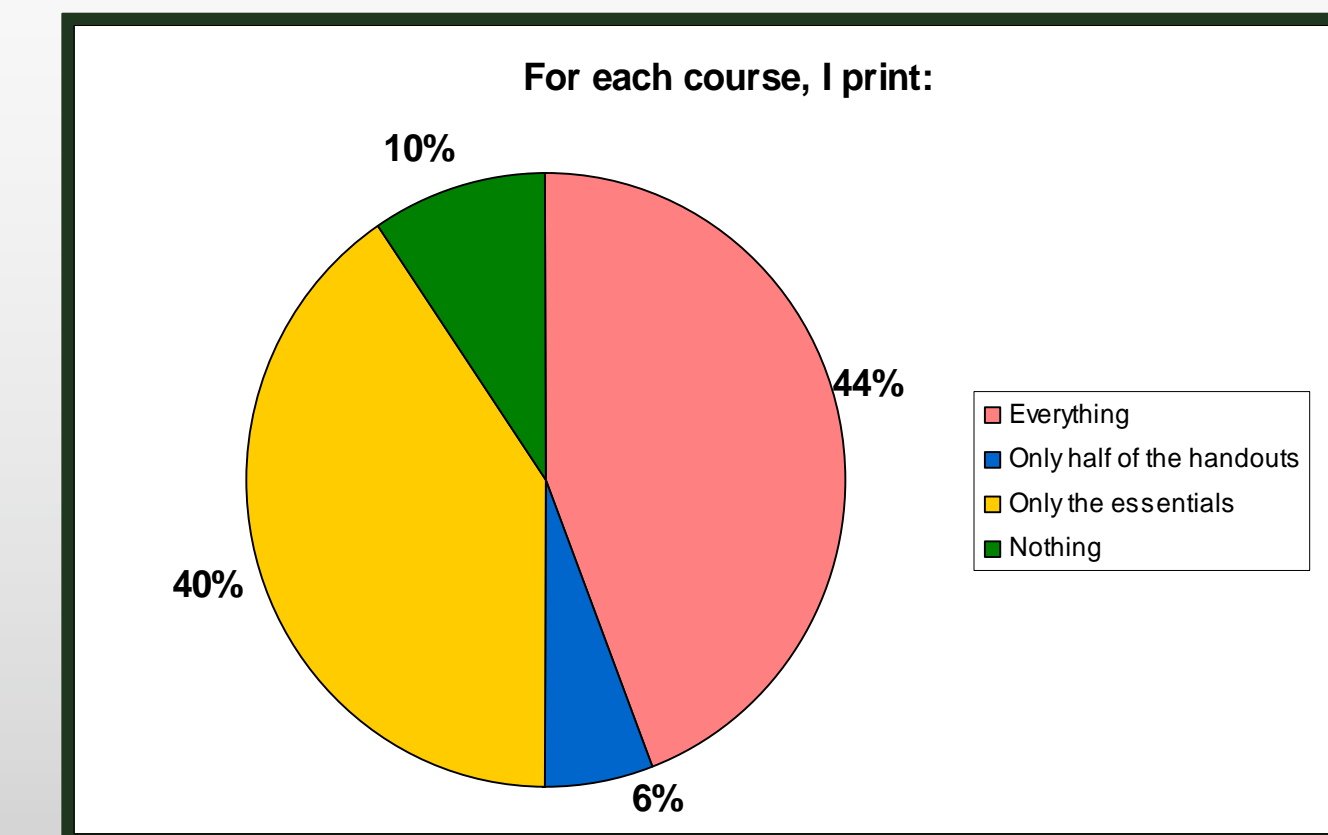
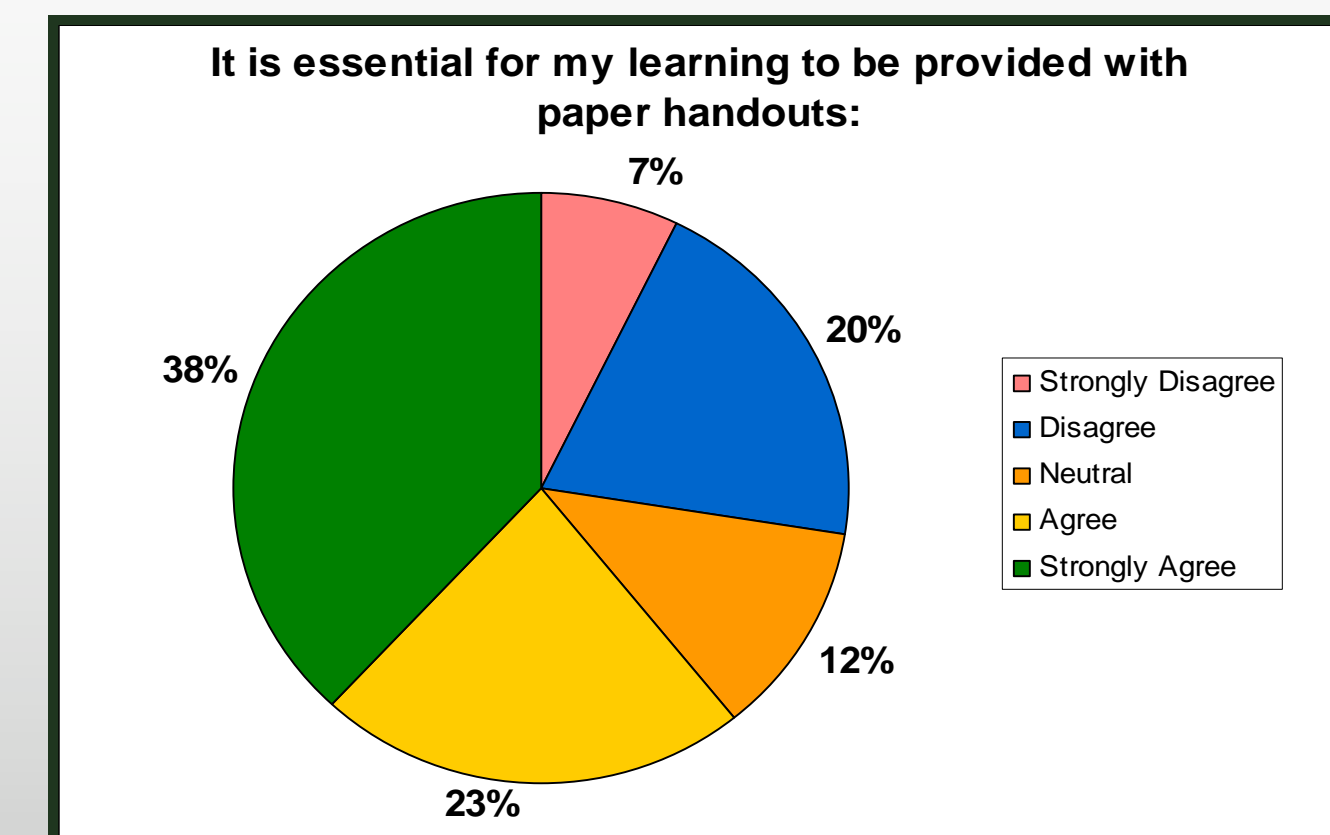
This system was introduced to an entering class size of 200 students divided between two curricular options, Systems Based (traditional track), 170 students, and Problem Based Learning (small group, case study), 30 students. Seven print stations were available for student use. Preliminary information concerning usage and student satisfaction is presented.

Methods:

A voluntary student satisfaction survey was conducted. Anonymous aggregate survey results were maintained electronically. The proposed study was reviewed by The WVSOM Institutional Review Board and granted exempt status.

Results:

Out of 84 students surveyed from the Class of 2012, the following graphs depict the results of student satisfaction and usage information.



Conclusions:

• While some students are eager for digital handouts, others are not prepared to make the transition to digital format. Many rely on paper-based learning strategies.

• The robust use of SOLE by faculty posting resources to complement lecture handouts created large print jobs as students attempted to “print everything”.

• “Last minute” printing between classes contributed to queue lines and occasionally missed print requests. This was the major complaint leading to student dissatisfaction.

• A cost savings was recognized in the first year of operation of 36% that does not include the potential cost savings in staff time for printing and distributing handouts. The real cost savings will not be fully determined until both year 1 and year 2 students (400 total) utilize the system and upgrades are evaluated to increase student satisfaction.

