

Speaker 1: Welcome to the UP Tech Talk podcast coming to you from the new academic multimedia studio on the University of Portland campus produced by academic technology services with your hosts Maria [inaudible 00:00:18] and Sam Williams.

Ben Kahn: Welcome to a special very short edition of the UP tech talk podcast. This is Ben Kahn, academic technology specialist and trainer at the University of Portland. This is a two fold podcast. The reason for it is two fold. We are testing a podcasting app on an iPad that only lets us record 10 minutes at a time for free so this is going to be very fast. My guest today is Brian Cutler who's the newest member of the ATS team here. I'm just going to talk to him a few minutes about him and about what he's brought to the table for ATS. Brian, thank you for joining me.

Brian Cutler: Thanks for having me, man.

Ben Kahn: So Brian, you came on board last late summer as the technical support specialist, you provide tier two escalated support for our academic applications. What applications does that include?

Brian Cutler: That includes moodle primarily and then mediaspace, office 365, Mahara pretty much all those little accessory applications that ATS supports.

Ben Kahn: All the things that are for teaching and learning using technology on campus.

Brian Cutler: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Ben Kahn: I know everyone on the team has been super happy that you've come on board. You've done a great job and all the faculty that we've talked to have rave reviews of working with you. In addition to those apps that you've been providing that tier two support on, I know you took on a couple of special projects. These are the ones that no one else would touch, firstly, until you came on board and were really able to buckle down and handle them. The first one is the iPad cart. Just give me a two minute or less run down of what that is entailed.

Brian Cutler: When I came on, we were retiring the old cart which I believe was 30 of the older iPads.

Ben Kahn: The fat heavy ones.

Brian Cutler: Yeah, which I think were four years old. Now we have 20 mini iPads and the way they work, they're for classroom use. You check out the cart for the day or a couple days and if you want any special applications, if you give a weeks notice then I can put them on there for you. They're really just to support academic projects you want to do. They're really great because it gives you a chance to control the user's experience and do specific apps. All you do is there's a page and you check it out. Media service is still the [inaudible 00:02:58] for you. It's a

great compliment to what you're teaching but you can also base some more ambitious projects around it. Some people do little video things and cooking show tutorials.

- Ben Kahn: Great, Brian. If people want to find out more information about the iPad cart, what is the website that they can visit?
- Brian Cutler: They just want to go to sites.up.edu/ipad
- Ben Kahn: Perfect, and that's where they can fill out a form to request a checkout and can they request apps to be installed there as well?
- Brian Cutler: Yeah, they can request apps. They can also request, if they want to do the cart every Thursday class from 3:00 to 3:30, they can do that then. It's good to get a jump on it because a lot of people like to make reservations ahead of time so you don't want to get locked out.
- Ben Kahn: I know the other project that you've put a lot of work into and everyone's very appreciative is around this scantron machine because we have a brand new scantron machine on campus. Can you tell me a little bit about your work on that?
- Brian Cutler: Sure, we got a brand new scantron machine. The scantron machine is older technology but what happened was the company that makes the data analysis software for the scantron machine they got bought by scantron and they stopped releasing updates after XP. They have gone out of business. So we had to transition to a new software, OMR classic remark. That's a transition. It basically does everything and more what the exam, I believe it was exam something, used to do. It's just a different format. Figuring out how the data analysis works. With scantron it's based around what form you're using. The new machine and new PC that runs the data analysis software only likes certain forms because the software has certain templates it works with and it's kind of an archaic process to create new forms.
- Ben Kahn: I see, so people are a little bit limited by what forms their department will buy for them and have the [inaudible 00:05:17] fill out in terms of what kind of data analysis they can do. I know that people do have the options. Professors do have the options to just get the raw scoring or they can go the data analysis route in which case they get some reporting around things like maybe which questions are really stumping everyone, based on demographics maybe, how are people doing on the test, things like that, right?
- Brian Cutler: Yeah, the raw scoring is really good if you have two classes, you have 60 students, you just want to score them, it takes about 10 minutes after you fill out the key and then that just basically, John Smith got 88% etc. Then, if you want to pull that into the machine, if you have some reporting statistics you want, you can see, like Ben was talking about, maybe question 18 and 25,

they're looking for a certain skill set or a certain section you covered. Then you can see people are having a problem with that section. Maybe I need to go over that again. Then also, it spits out a big excel workbook so you can sort and do whatever you want with it. It's interesting. The scantron machine is kind of archaic, basic information but then you throw it into the data analysis software and you can do all kinds of loops and stuff.

Ben Kahn: It sounds like it's pretty powerful but it's also a little [inaudible 00:06:37] in terms of helping you manage it and for professors to be actually getting these insights into their students' performance on the quiz which leads me into briefly wanting to mention quizzing in moodle. Not sure if everyone is aware of this but moodle's not just for putting your syllabus up or collecting assignments in a digital drop box. You can actually do quizzing online. Usually, what that will entail is creating a quiz in moodle and you would generally have the students take that on their own time, out of class. Some of the things that you can do are you can set a timer on it so they're only allowed to begin the session or once they do begin the session they only have a certain allotment of time be it one minute per question or less or more. Whatever may suit your needs. Typically, what we would see people do is just have those be open book, right?

Brian Cutler: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Ben Kahn: Is that your experience in the past?

Brian Cutler: Yeah, I think also one of the neat features is, like what Ben was talking about, there's a lot of safeguards where if you are worried about cheating you can randomize questions.

Ben Kahn: Exactly.

Brian Cutler: You can have a different pool of questions. One of the nice things is there's really ...

Ben Kahn: Just to be clear, you're talking about you have a bank of like 100 questions and it will randomly pull out 10 for each student. Each student isn't necessarily taking the same quiz.

Brian Cutler: Yeah.

Ben Kahn: Cool. I think that's definitely something for people to be thinking about if they're using the scantron, to start moving towards a more digital future. Just to wrap up our talk about the scantron before we end the show, how can people find out more about where the scantron is or how to use it?

Brian Cutler: The new scantron machine and PC is in [inaudible 00:08:22] 354. In there, there's a lot of documentation on the wall and also in a little binder there. my phone number and email is right near the phone if you have a question. That's

a good place to go to see what forms you should be using and also how to do raw scoring, how to do some basic data analysis. If you have any bigger questions, you can just give me a call from there or send me an email.

Ben Kahn: Great. That's about all the time we have for this special tech talk episode. Brian, thanks so much for joining me for this. I'm going to get you on more of these podcasts in the future because you're a great guest.

Brian Cutler: Great, thanks for having me, Ben.

Ben Kahn: Goodbye.

Speaker 1: Thank you for joining us for another episode of the UP Tech Talk podcast. Just a reminder that we post a new poscast every Friday morning. You can find us at techtalk.up.edu