

ITeach 2006 Session What's New with Telesis?

Kathy Atnip, Director
The Teaching Lab in A&S

A. Welcome

TWO GOALS FOR SESSION:

- brief introduction to Telesis for those who are unfamiliar
- update on new Telesis features for those who already know something about the system

Questions at any point!

B. Introduction to Telesis

1. Web-based course management system, <https://telesis.wustl.edu>, a type of Content Management System with similarities to others you may have used such as Blackboard
2. History: in production since Fall 04, in development nearly two years before that with pilot and testing phases
3. developed in-house by the same folks that developed the Student Information and Course Listings systems
 - a. means it's integrated with university systems for course enrollment and student information
 - b. courses are set up automatically and there are daily updates to Telesis roster for enrollment changes
 - c. also means that access is secure and data is backed up on a regular basis
4. Moving from courses and students to communities and members—as more people try Telesis and think of innovative uses
5. To access Telesis, use WebFAC ID and Password, students use WebSTAC ID and Password
6. Requires current web browser
7. Does *not* require software or the ability to code web pages!
8. Cost of ownership—provide support person from your school or department to receive training, help instructors locally, elevate difficult questions to Telesis team

B. Brief tour of Telesis, showing “populated” courses

1. Menu at left is divided into functional areas:
 - (1st section of menu) managing and sharing content
 - syllabus—easy online material
 - course calendar—auto populated for course sessions
 - topics
 - assignments
 - announcements

(2nd section) communication with students and among students

- file sharing
 - ability to have file sharing between instructor and all students
 - also individual student and instructor file sharing through inbox and outbox
 - ability to copy files from one course to another—roll forward **NEW!**
- electronic threaded discussion
- email to roster, individuals or groups
 - ability to Email all, or selected members
 - ability to Email attachments **NEW!**
- real-time chat

(3rd section) managing student information and performance records

- attendance management
- gradebook
 - Set up gradebook with any graded item categories you wish, calculated grades, entered grades or combination --Wizards are easiest, quickest way for a basic gradebook
 - Create and use grade scales
 - Make visible all or selected grades to individual students with password access assured
 - Submit grades to EGS (must approve in EGS)
 - ability to copy gradebooks from course to course if you commonly use similar one
 - helpful tools in Gradebook:
 - testing **NEW! Aug 05** reveals problems with calculations, etc.
 - Find missing grades tab **NEW! Aug 05**

(fourth section) ability to customize look (to an extent) and behavior

Tools/Options

Marquee for announcements in header on each screen

NEW!

IMPORTANT: Activate custom content

If not yet activated, Flag for community visibility in yellow **NEW! Aug 05**

Add additional members to community by request

Set an option for membership

Tell members to log in and search for your community and join or make request

If you've chosen an approval method, you approve them under roster and you can then change their role

Other tabs:

Menu options-change or disable menu items

Role Security tab and enhanced role management **NEW!**

Aug 05

1. anonymous campus visitor and web guest access—
 - a. using role security, decide what level of access to provide to these roles
 - b. off campus guest click on guest login at <https://telesis.wustl.edu> and search
 - c. on-campus guests login with ID and PW and search
2. Request to join community **NEW! Aug. 05**—control by leader/instructor

Create community **NEW! Aug. 05**

Copy options—File copy and equation copy between communities **NEW!**

Demonstration of text editor: note:

editor is like word processor—ability to format text

Can bring in images and links to files

requires JRE applet in browser—current browsers are ready

Always accept for JRE

“Rule of Three” for options in most Telesis features

Use Telesis builder

Link to file that is already formatted and saved (move to Files in Telesis)

Link to URL

NEW! Improvements to editor include:

ability to more easily insert images from your local computer

- ii. better spellchecking
- iii. support for Mac Safari
- iv. Save plus Save and Return for saving work in progress and continuing
- v. Ability to display editing window and spellcheck in various languages
- vi. Can open editor in separate window and work more quickly and easily with entering and formatting text

C. Additional helpful information about Telesis

1. Visibility controls

- a. community level—activate custom content
- b. feature level—appear in menu, change menu wording
- c. individual item w/in features

- d. allows you to build and reveal your material as you wish
2. What do students see and when?
 - a. Student view of Telesis at main menu item level, faculty tools at manage menu items
 - b. courses are loaded about two weeks before the start of the semester and a list is available at MyHome for students of their enrolled courses
 - c. Students see limited view of only basic calendar and course description until you activate custom content
 - d. You can also control visibility for many features, reveal and suppress items and also reveal by date
3. Role management—**TA role from WUCRSL**
 - a. other roles available like staff, support, guests, etc.
4. Getting help with problems or questions about Telesis
 - a. Online help and context-sensitive help throughout at “Help” button
 - b. local support contact—at <https://telesis.wustl.edu> and in online help
 - c. send a message to telesis@wustl.edu to report problems

D. Future improvements planned for Telesis:

- Ability to order lists of items more easily—Assignments, Topics, etc.
- Ability to customize display of Files to students for better organization
- Ability to copy a single item from course to course—one gradebook component, a single assignment
- Additional gradebook testing features and copy features
- External guest access for situations like guest faculty from other institutions (sit in on a discussion)
- Display controls for “all” in roster and option to suppress pix