

# USCL Current Technology Survey Results

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At the end of the Spring '09 Semester, the computer committee administered a voluntary survey of current USCL students about their computer use habits and skills. An online survey was linked from the home page, and advertised in computer labs on campus. Here are the results of this survey, for general faculty/staff consumption.

A few interesting results:

- 87% of respondents had high speed internet at home, with only 4% having no internet at home.
- 87% of respondents reported that they use the internet daily.
- Only 14% of respondents reported that they prefer taking courses with a little or no educational technology involved.
- 81% of respondents reported that they own a laptop, but only 51% of respondents reported that they ever use their laptop on campus.

The full survey, with response counts:

1. Do you check your university email address at least once per week?  
[53] Yes  
[14] No  
[0] I didn't know I had one.
2. Do you have a non-university email address (any email address other than your mailbox.sc.edu email address)?  
[61] Yes  
[7] No
3. Have you registered your non-university email address in VIP?  
[27] Yes  
[36] No  
[5] I don't have a non-university email address.
4. Do you regularly use the USC Lancaster computer labs?  
[53] Yes  
[15] No
5. What web browser do you use most often?  
[47] Internet Explorer (Microsoft)  
[14] Firefox (Mozilla)  
[5] Safari (Apple)  
[1] AOL Explorer  
[1] Chrome

- [0] Opera
- [0] Other
- [0] None (I don't browse the web)

*[Questions 6-13 were rated on a 1-5 scale, with 1 meaning "Very likely to affect your work" and 5 meaning "not at all likely to affect your work. The results list 1 on the left, and 5 on the right.]*

If you are asked to use the Internet as part of your regular assignments for class, rate the extent to which each of the following likely to affect your work:

6. Problems finding a computer to access the internet  
[17] [10] [6] [5] [28]
7. Problems with my computer  
[17] [11] [11] [4] [23]
8. Printing problems  
[24] [9] [9] [9] [15]
9. Network/Internet problems (for example, internet slowness)  
[22] [8] [10] [10] [16]
10. Cost of computer hardware  
[21] [6] [11] [5] [23]
11. Time needed to learn how to use educational technologies  
[12] [6] [9] [6] [33]
12. Time needed to use educational technologies  
[13] [9] [12] [5] [26]
13. Which of the following best describes your preference with regard to the use of educational technology in your courses?
  - [4] I prefer taking courses that use no educational technology.
  - [5] I prefer taking courses that use a small amount of technology (for example, email to instructors and limited use of PowerPoint in class).
  - [29] I prefer taking courses that use a moderate amount of technology (for example, email, several PowerPoint presentations, some online activities or content).
  - [20] I prefer taking courses that use a large amount of technology (for example, class lecture notes online, computer simulations, PowerPoint presentations, streaming video or audio, etc.).
  - [2] I prefer taking courses that use technology exclusively (for example, are entirely online with no required face-to-face interactions).
  - [7] No preference

*[Questions 14-27 were on a scale. The 6 options were labelled:*

*1 I'm an expert at that.*

*2 I can do that.*

*3 I could probably do that.*

*4 I might be able to do that.*

*5 I don't know how to do that.*

*6 I don't know what that is.*

*Response counts are listed below in this order.]*

Please rate your ability level at the following computer-related tasks.

- |     |  |      |      |      |     |     |     |
|-----|--|------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|
| 14. | Send and recieve email   | [46] | [20] | [0]  | [0] | [0] | [0] |
| 15. | Search for information online                                  | [38] | [27] | [1]  | [0] | [0] | [0] |
| 16. | Search for information in USCL or USC online library resources | [17] | [35] | [6]  | [6] | [2] | [0] |
| 17. | Use a presentation program, such as powerpoint                 | [32] | [28] | [2]  | [3] | [1] | [0] |
| 18. | Use Blackboard   | [35] | [27] | [2]  | [1] | [0] | [1] |
| 19. | Use instant messaging or chat tools                            | [36] | [17] | [7]  | [3] | [2] | [0] |
| 20. | Use a message board  | [32] | [16] | [12] | [3] | [3] | [0] |
| 21. | Use a word processor, such as Word                             | [43] | [21] | [2]  | [0] | [0] | [0] |
| 22. | Use spreadsheet software, such as Excel                        | [22] | [34] | [7]  | [2] | [1] | [0] |
| 23. | Use database software, such as Access                          | [13] | [21] | [20] | [6] | [5] | [1] |
| 24. | Modify an image with a graphics program like Photoshop.        | [17] | [25] | [14] | [3] | [4] | [2] |

25. Contribute to a wiki (online collaboration tool)  
[13] [15] [21] [5] [6] [6]
26. Contribute to a blog (online journaling tool)  
[15] [18] [17] [6] [7] [2]
27. Use a computer in general  
[44] [21] [1] [0] [0] [0]
28. Where do you use the internet most often?  
[46] At home.  
[14] On campus, in a computer lab.  
[5] On campus, using a portable computer and wifi.  
[0] Off campus, at a community center or library.  
[2] At work.  
[0] I don't use the internet.
29. Which of the following best describes you?  
[13] I don't have a laptop.  
[20] I have a laptop, but I don't use it on campus.  
[34] I have a laptop, and I sometimes use it on campus.

*[Questions 30-38 had the following options:*

*1 Have it.*

*2 Don't have it, but want it.*

*3 Don't have it, don't want it.*

*4 Don't know.*

*Response counts are presented in this order.]*

Which of the following technologies do you currently have? For those that you don't have, is this something you're interested in having?

30. Cell phone.  
[65] [1] [0] [0]
31. Cell phone with a plan that includes unlimited texting.  
[47] [12] [7] [0]
32. Smart phone (A cell phone with internet or PDA capabilities, such as a Blackberry, iPhone, or Treo)  
[24] [25] [17] [0]

33. Personal digital assistant (PDA, such as a Palm Pilot)  
[11] [18] [36] [0]
34. Mp3 Player (such as an iPod)  
[45] [11] [10] [0]
35. Digital camera  
[58] [7] [1] [0]
36. Home computer  
[64] [1] [1] [0]
37. Printer  
[57] [8] [1] [0]
38. Scanner  
[45] [14] [5] [2]
39. What type of internet connection do you have at home?  
[3] None  
[3] Dial-up  
[21] DSL  
[4] Satellite internet  
[31] Cable internet  
[2] T1 or higher  
[1] Other  
[2] Unsure
40. Approximately how often do you use the internet (for personal use or for work)?  
[57] Daily  
[7] 3-6 times per week  
[2] 1-2 times per week  
[1] 1-3 times per month  
[0] Less than monthly  
[0] Never
41. You are a...  
[22] Freshman  
[28] Sophomore  
[7] Junior  
[10] Senior
42. What is your age?  
18 [8 responses]  
19 [18 responses]

20 [11 responses]  
21  
22 [2 responses.]  
23 [2 responses.]  
24 [2 responses.]  
25 [2 responses.]  
26 [2 responses.]  
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32 [2 responses]  
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34 [2 responses]  
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[Median is 20; mean is 24.9]