Scenario

Professor McKinley teaches an advanced algebra course in an active learning classroom (ALC) that features movable furniture. The professor likes to take advantage of that and often has students move around for group work. The classroom has a projector, but unfortunately, the screen blocks most of the whiteboard. By using *Doceri* on his iPad and connecting to the projector through an Apple TV, the professor is able to wirelessly project presentations made in Power Point and Keynote. He likes the freedom to move around the classroom while presenting and the ability to annotate his presentations on the fly to point out salient facts to students or highlight parts of the information on a slide. Frequently, he also finds himself using the virtual whiteboard feature in *Doceri* which allows him to momentarily suspend the presentation and write out notes to support answers to student questions. The ability to use a custom background for the whiteboard is also very useful as it allows him to use grids when he needs to draw graphs.

At the end of class, Professor McKinley often saves his presentation with the annotations he did. This way, he can re-use and improve on his materials which allows him to spend more time on interacting with his students. It also allows him to tell the students to focus on listening to his explanations during class and not try to write everything in his presentations down. Instead, he just exports the presentations and annotations to a PDF and uploads it to his BlackBoard course after class.

One final *Doceri* feature he appreciates is the ability to record a presentation as a series of animated slides, complete with his annotations and voice-over explanations. This way, he can prepare online lessons for when he is away for a conference and provide students with self-study materials on complex topics, which helps them prepare better for tests.

1. What is it?

Doceri is a tablet-based presentation tool with desktop computer remote control and Power Point/Keynote control and annotation. In addition, it may be used as an advanced virtual whiteboard.

2. How does it work?

With *Doceri* installed on a desktop or laptop computer that is hooked up to a projector the instructor may remote control the computer and run Power Point/Keynote presentations on it from an iPad or Windows Surface tablet. Alternatively, an iPad may be hooked up to an Apple TV and use that to present directly to the screen. Windows 8.1 tablets may do the same with a Miracast receiver. These presentations can be annotated on the tablet and the resulting product can be saved in static (PDF) form or as a series of animations that can be shared with students. All files and presentations are stored on local computers or tablets: No online account is needed.

3. Who's doing it?

Doceri is mostly used by college instructors who like the wireless computer and presentation remote control features and the ability to annotate presentations. This helps them create self-contained lessons and study materials by recording annotations and voice-over instructions. Instructors also use the tablet as a virtual whiteboard that lets them save, edit and share the pages that are created. It has been adopted across the 3,800-classroom Garland Independent School District in Texas as well as by Penn State University, which has bought a 1,000 seat license for its faculty.

4. Why is it significant?

Doceri is a modestly priced piece of software that allows instructors to use tablets to present, annotate, write on a virtual whiteboard and record everything for later distribution to students. By leveraging existing technologies that instructors are familiar with *Doceri*

significantly expands their instructional and pedagogical possibilities in the classroom and their ability to create rich, self-contained lessons for online distribution.

5. What are the downsides?

Doceri works only on iPads and Windows Surface tablets and only the iPad version allows the user to record presentations and voice-over audio. While the technology works fairly seamlessly, instructors will likely need a short introduction to the basic program features and will probably also need additional instruction in order to use the more advanced recording and voice-over features. In addition, the tablet needs to be used together with a computer, Apple TV (iPad only), or Miracast receiver (Windows 8.1 tablet only).

If handwritten presentation annotations are distributed to students then screen readers are not likely to work with the resulting files. *Doceri* makes no claims of being ADA compliant and instructors should always keep accessibility issues in mind when using tools like this in their classroom. In case of any doubts or concerns, please contact the relevant offices on campus for advice and assistance.

6. Where is it going?

Doceri was first released in 2011 and has since been updated and expanded regularly by the creators, SP Controls, who produce audiovisual control technology and have been in business since 1997. Given its reasonable cost and reliance on established and familiar technology, it has the potential to see increased adoption across schools and colleges.

7. What are the implications for teaching and learning?

Doceri has the potential to become a valuable wireless presentation and annotation tool for school and college instructors. Its advanced features that allow instructors to create online lessons with a voice-over audio track enable faculty to create attractive stand-alone lessons and support materials. It also allows faculty to adopt a more active teaching style and be closer to the students while still incorporating a presentation into the class or writing notes on the virtual whiteboard for all students to see.

8. Where can I find out more?

SP Controls maintain a website at www.doceri.com with descriptions of the software features and several instructional videos on how to use *Doceri*. In addition, they provide many videos with sample lessons for a variety of disciplines created with *Doceri* by different college instructors.

You may also contact Jacob E. Larsen (jlarsen@iastate.edu) in IT Services to discuss how *Doceri* can be used with your students.

Additional legal information.

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