TABLET DEVICES IN THE LEGISLATURE

IPAD USAGE BY THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE

Greg Tingle – Texas Legislative Council
Background

- **Legislature**
  - Meets for regular sessions lasting 140 days every other year. Special sessions last up to 30 days.
  - Consists of 150 representatives and 31 senators.
  - Texas Legislative Council provides legal, technical, and office support.

- **Hardware**
  - Each member is provided with a notebook computer.
  - Capitol and district office staff have desktop computers.
  - Six-year refresh for desktop computers, six-year refresh for notebook computers.
Wireless access

Access points for internal Capitol clients as well as Internet access for the public.

Coverage Improvement Project

- Mesh network on capitol grounds south lawn for outside coverage.
- Dense population of access points in Capitol due to granite walls.
- Deployment of 323 access points.

More details in session:

Social Media and Mobile Technologies: Legislative Game-Changers  Thursday, August 11 from 4:00 pm-5:30 pm
Mobile Environment

Texas Legislature Online

- Portal site for access to legislative content for mobile devices
- View text of bills, calendars, and meeting notices
- View committee membership
- Create personal bill list
- Live video streaming of chamber proceedings
Who Represents Me?

- Allows constituents to find officials which represent them by entering a street address or by using the location-aware feature.
Mobile Environment

DistrictViewer

- Allows constituents to view current and proposed redistricting plans
QUESTION: What do you do if several members you support show up with their own Apple iPads and want to utilize them in your environment for something other than just playing Angry Birds?
Mobile Device Emergence

Devices in Use by House and Senate

- iPhone: 51%
- iPad: 18%
- Android: 19%
- Blackberry: 7%
- Other: 5%

1,300+ mobile devices in the environment including council, house, and senate
Mobile Device Emergence

- Review of Support Policies
  - Setup procedures for accessing e-mail through Microsoft Exchange
  - How to connect to internal and public wireless network
  - How to access applications through Citrix
  - How to use the Find my Phone/iPad feature
  - How to perform a remote wipe

- Third-party Applications Recommendations
  - Staff reviewed third-party applications and provided information on how they could be used as part of the legislative process.
  - Examples: Dropbox, Noterize
Tablet Usage Scenario

- Dropbox Application
  - Office staff keep track of important legislation, reference material, or recommendations for a given day.
  - Office staff use Dropbox application to place files into the cloud.
  - Documents show up on the member’s device for viewing.
House leadership inquired about the possibility of supporting iPads in the chamber as part of the floor amendment process.

- Goals of the project:
  - System which was easy to use
  - No training required
  - No interruption to the existing legislative process
  - Minimal impact to the existing amendment system application
  - Quick development turnaround
Floor Amendment System (FAS)

- Background
  - Implemented in January 1995
  - Replaced a rudimentary system composed of small video monitors at each member’s desk allowing for display of single-page amendments
  - System is composed of two scanners for scanning amendments, one scanner for chamber documents, one control station, and 150 member notebook computers
  - Average of 2,100 house floor amendments per legislative session
FAS Overview

Amendment is scanned and made available to the control station
Control station staff make amendment viewable
iPads become an additional document consumer

Web Browsers
Desktop and Notebook Computers
Member iPads (iFAS)

Control Station
Scanner

Amendment
iFAS – Walkthrough

- Text of current amendment
- Text of current bill
- List of amendments considered
- Floor calendars
Current proceedings

Text of amendment under consideration

Export amendment to external application
Save amendment to another application existing on the device
- iBooks
- Noterize
- Note Taker
- Any other application supporting the Adobe PDF format
iFAS – Export Amendment

- Export to external application allows:
  - Annotations
  - Viewing while offline
  - Sending documents to others
  - Enhanced viewing capabilities

Replace with $5,201,890
A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to making an appropriation of money from the economic stabilization fund for expenditure during the current state fiscal biennium.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. (a) The amount of $4,273,557,000 is appropriated from the economic stabilization fund to the comptroller of public accounts for the purpose of depositing that amount to the credit of the general revenue fund as money available for use during the state fiscal year ending August 31, 2011, to make expenditures previously authorized by appropriations from general revenue for the state fiscal biennium ending August 31, 2011.

(b) This Act takes effect only if it receives a vote of three-fifths of the members present in each house of the Legislature, as provided by Section 49–g(k), Article III, Texas Constitution, and is subject to certification by the comptroller of public accounts as provided by that subsection.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately.
View any amendment having been considered for the current legislative day.
View the house floor calendars for the current legislative day
View the house floor calendars for the current legislative day.
Where Do We Go From Here?

- Tablet Adoption
  - Investigate the possibility of replacing notebook computers with tablet devices
- Benefits
  - Portability
  - Ease of use
  - Instant on
  - Multi-purpose
  - Interaction