

Disadvantages of Student Presentations Tool:

1. Students have to create at least one index file in .html format. They can also use .jpeg and .gif. They can't just upload a .ppt and have it show up as the first page under their group's presentation area. They can link to a .ppt from the index.html file (home page). Firefox will download this file and open it in Power Point.
2. A student can only upload one page at a time to the WebCT server: WebDAV is not available to them. These presentation pages go into one folder for that particular group under the Manage Files area of the course.
3. The WYSIWYG html editor in WebCT is very limited and not as nice to use as Dreamweaver. In WebCT's WYSIWYG, there is no way for a student to browse to an uploaded file and select it in order to create the link. He or she must know the absolute URL to that file. Thus, if the students design a site in Dreamweaver, they have to have all files at the same level, i.e. within one single folder, in order for the links to work. Unless the instructor will upload their file directory for them.
4. When Power Point presentations are saved as .html within Power Point, they create a main file that references other image, frame, and page files within a subfolder. Thus, the course instructor would need to load this directory structure to the proper place with the Manage Files area for it to be viewed over WebCT.

Advantages of Student Presentations Tool:

1. You can have student presentations integrated into a WebCT course. This may be good for archiving or later reference to the presentation. However, the students could post one index home page that contains links to files located on another server. If the files are removed from the other server, you will not have access to them anymore.
2. If no web server space is available to students, they can post web content in both the Student Presentation Tool and the Student HomePages Tool. This content is not accessible to anyone outside of the course though.
3. You can send an email message to all members of a group by clicking an envelope email icon next to the group's name. This is within the Student Presentation Tool. You can go into your Email tool and allow the students to have their email forwarded to an external address or have your WebCT course instructor email forwarded to an external address. Use the "Message Settings" button at the top.
4. You can set when everyone's presentation becomes public with the "change settings" button within the Student Presentation Tool, or you can click on each group's name and specify different times for each group's presentation to become available.

5. The students have a place to discuss their project when they can not meet face-to-face. You can set up private discussion topics for each group and make yourself, as an instructor, part of each group's discussion.