

Clicker Utility Users Guide

- 1) Students may use any web-enabled device to respond to questions. However, IPAL now allows some or all of the students in a class to use clickers. If you will not be using clickers, please disregard all the information given below.
- 2) The ComPADRE IPAL site (<http://www.compadre.org/ipal/>) where the IPAL module can be found also includes the Clicker Utility, a Java program for enabling responses from clickers. Currently this Java program must be run on a Windows PC running Java 1.6 or later. The receiver must be plugged into this PC.
- 3) Currently only the TurningTechnology ResponseCard clickers are supported. Also, there is no utility for changing the channel that the clickers and receiver are using for communicating. If it is desired to change the channel, please use the TurningTechnology program that is provided with each set of clickers.
- 4) The program that enables the receiving of responses from clickers is the ResponseCardToIPAL.jar file. This is an executable Java jar file. To run this program (and the other jar files) just double click on the file. To run this program you probably will have to click on "Run" or "Allow" on pop-up warning windows on the PC.
- 5) The program needs to know the URL to your Moodle site. This requires a file whose name is MoodleURL.txt and it must be located one level above the executable jar file. In this file there must be one and only one line with the URL location of the root of your Moodle site, <http://<Your Moodle site>/>. The zipped file with the IPAL module has such a file. It must be changed for your Moodle site and Notepad is a good editor to use. This only has to be done once (unless the URL for your Moodle site changes).
- 6) Two other executable jar files are included and you are encouraged to use to check everything out, the TestIPALJava.jar and the TestIPALJavaTP.jar executable jar files. The TestIPALJava.jar will check to verify that the PC is running Java 1.6 or later, that the file giving the Moodle URL is correct, and that the PC is connected to the Internet.
- 7) Before using the TestIPALJavaTP.jar file you will have to plug the TurningTechnology receiver into the PC and make sure that the hardware is ready to be used. This program will check on everything that the TestIPALJava.jar program checked on, but will also check to be sure that it is communicating with the receiver and can receive responses from clickers.
- 8) Before using the real clicker polling utility, ResponseCardToIPAL.jar, you will need to create at least one IPAL instance where clickers are enabled. When this is done an access code is displayed on the main screen of the IPAL instance for the teacher. Please note the value of this access code. (This tells the program which program should receive the responses from the clickers.) When the ResponseCardToIPAL.jar program is started, the program will ask for this access code. You must fill in this value which the program will then verify. Once this is verified, the program is ready to receive responses from clickers as long as there is an active question (i.e., Polling is going on). Whenever polling is stopped, students can't respond with either clickers or web-enabled devices.
- 9) Closing the window which the ResponseCardToIPAL.jar executable produced will stop the program.
- 10) Can students register their clickers? Yes!! Students can go to an IPAL instance that has clickers enabled and, when there is no active question (polling is stopped/not started), clicking on the IPAL link leads them to an interface where they can register their clickers. This is a one-time registration per course but it must be done for each different course (but not for each different IPAL session). The spreadsheet view will display students' names beside responses from registered clickers but will display the clicker ID beside responses from unregistered clickers.