


# Rapid Response xBlock

an Open edX replacement for “clickers”

Peter Pinch, MIT Open Learning  
Open edX lightning talk, May 31, 2018



# Student response systems

aka “clickers”

Pros

- more response options than raising hands
- Students can't see each other's responses
- Instructor can adjust lecture in response to results
- Data collection to improve instruction & research

# Clickers

## Cons

- Difficult integration (at least with MIT legacy systems)
- Students bear the cost
- Vendors moving to subscription model prevents used clicker market

# Rapid Response xBlock

- First version developed by a physicist using LTI
- Used in intro Physics and Chemistry courses this year
  
- New version developed as an xBlock **Aside**
- Same problem authoring, grading, event logging as xBlocks
  - Including OLX authoring, import and export
- Currently only works with multiple choice problems but easily extended

Demo: <https://tinyurl.com/rr-xblock>

username

email

password

a0	a0@example.com	a0password
a1	a1@example.com	a1password
a2	a2@example.com	a2password
a3	a3@example.com	a3password
a4	a4@example.com	a4password
a5	a5@example.com	a5password
a6	a6@example.com	a6password
a7	a7@example.com	a7password
a8	a8@example.com	a8password

# In case the demo doesn't work

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `https://studio-sandbox00.mitx.mit.edu/container/block-v1:ODL+`. The page title is "Editing: Rapid Response Problem 1". At the top of the editor, there are three tabs: "EDITOR", "SETTINGS", and "PLUGINS". The "PLUGINS" tab is highlighted in blue, and a red box with an arrow points to it from the text "After Rapid Response is installed, you will see a new 'plugins' tab in the problem editor". Below the tabs is a toolbar with icons for undo, redo, bold, italic, text color, and background color. The main content area contains a template for a multiple-choice question. The text in the editor reads: "You can use this template as a guide to the simple editor markdown and OLX markup to use for multiple choice problems. Edit this component to replace this template with your own assessment." followed by a prompt: ">>Add the question text, or prompt, here. This text is required.||You can add an optional tip or note related to the prompt like this. <<". Below the prompt are four radio button options: "( ) an incorrect answer", "(x) the correct answer", "( ) an incorrect answer", and "( ) another incorrect answer". At the bottom of the editor, there are "Save" and "Cancel" buttons. The background shows a sidebar with "Rapid Response" sections and a main content area with a "Publish" button and "Discard Changes" link.

# In case the demo doesn't work

The image shows a browser window with multiple tabs. The active tab is titled "Rapid Response Problem 1" and the address bar shows the URL "https://studio-sandbox00.mit.edu/container/block-v1:ODL+...". The page content is partially obscured by a modal dialog box.

The modal dialog box has a title bar "Editing: Rapid Response Problem 1" and three tabs: "EDITOR", "SETTINGS", and "PLUGINS". The "PLUGINS" tab is selected. Inside the dialog, there is a single checkbox labeled "Enable problem for rapid-response" which is checked. At the bottom of the dialog, there are two buttons: "Save" and "Cancel".

The background page shows a course editor interface for "ODL CS101 CS101". The page title is "Rapid Responses". There are buttons for "Version" and "Preview". A section of text is visible: "1 point possible (ung...". Below that, there is a section titled "Add the question t..." with the text "You can add an optiona...". There are three radio button options: "an incorrect a...", "the correct a...", and "an incorrect answer". At the bottom right, there is a timestamp: "Last published May 25, 2018 at 17:22 UTC by gsidebo".

# In case the demo doesn't work

## Learner view:

### Unit

[Bookmark this page](#)

### Multiple Choice

1 point possible (ungraded)

Rapid Response is implemented as an "XBlock Aside" so it can be turned on for any XBlock.

However, it currently only supports Multiple Choice questions (and only one question per XBlock Unit).

What will be the name of the next release of Open edX?

The one *after* Hawthorn?.

Indigo

Ivy

Ilex aquifolium

I-have-know-idea

Submit

## Instructor view:

### Unit

[Bookmark this page](#)

[VIEW UNIT IN STUDIO](#)

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[Show Answer](#)

[SUBMISSION HISTORY](#)

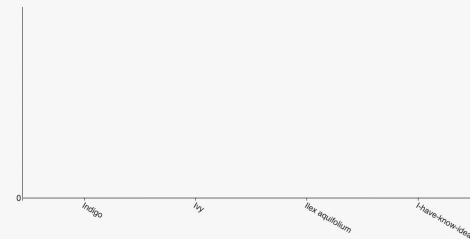
[STAFF DEBUG INFO](#)

### Live Response

[Open Problem Now](#)

0m : 0s

None

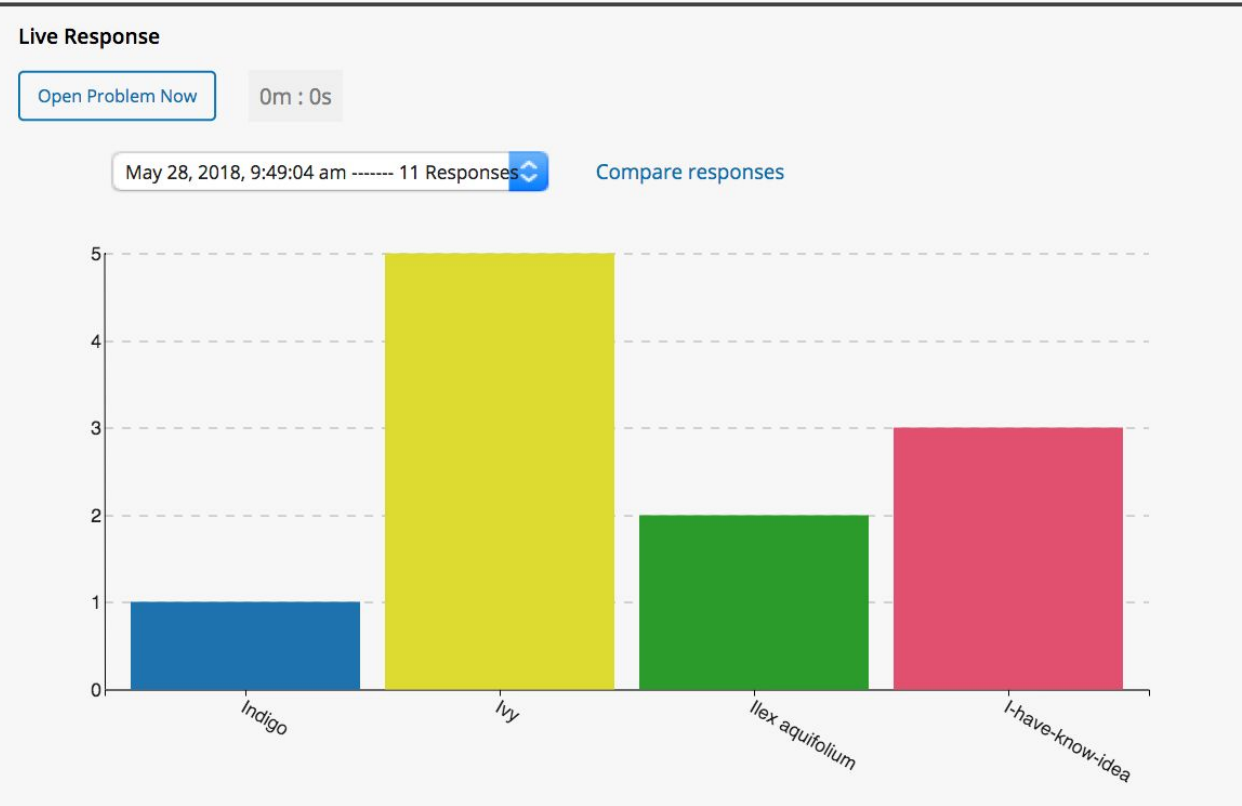


[< Previous](#) [Next >](#)



# In case the demo doesn't work

Instructor graph view:



Repo at <https://github.com/mitodl/rapid-response-xblock/>

Thank you:

- MIT Physics:
  - jolyonb
- MIT Open Learning Engineering:
  - gsidebo, noisecapella, roberthouse54
- edX architects:
  - ormsbee, cpennington
- edX reviewers:
  - ???

