Experiences using WebCT: Empower the Students and Burden your TA

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http://webct.cc.utexas.edu/SCRIPT/EE313/scripts/serve_home

(username "guest" and password "guest")

Introduction

- EE313 Linear Systems and Signals, Fall 99
- Required sophomore course, 70 students
- Using WebCT, students used a browser to
  - Download assignments
  - Browse lectures
  - Check grades and relative performance
  - Participate in virtual office hours

Virtual Office Hours

- Advantages
  - Accessible from anywhere
  - All discussions are on public record
- Disadvantages
  - Computer chat less natural than face-to-face conversation
  - Difficult to read how well students understand with no facial expressions

Example Chat Session

TA>>For the plotting questions, you can use Mathematica or Matlab. Both will give you correct answers if you use them correctly.

Melody Queen Klingler>>Does the error in the code of Computer Ex. C2.1 (discussed on the hmwk pg) produce an incorrect plot, or will it just not run?

TA>>Is that the one Brian describes on the web page?

Melody Queen Klingler>>yes

->->->-> Jacy S. Little connected at: Tue Sep 7 1999 20:32:09

TA>>The matlab code won't run at all.

->->->-> David Paul Higley connected at: Tue Sep 7 1999 20:32:33

Melody Queen Klingler>>Thanks.

TA>>It includes syntax errors.

TA>>Also, it calls function don't exist.

<-<-<-<- Jacy S. Little disconnected at: Tue Sep 7 1999 20:33:00

TA>>Furthermore, the matlab code is really hard to understand.

->->->-> Jacy S. Little connected at: Tue Sep 7 1999 20:33:28 …

Jonathan Francis Wong>>In mathematica, how can you run the program to get the solution for the problems?

TA>>You'll have to be more specific. What program? What problems?

->->->-> David Paul Higley_#2 connected at: Tue Sep 7 1999 20:35:54

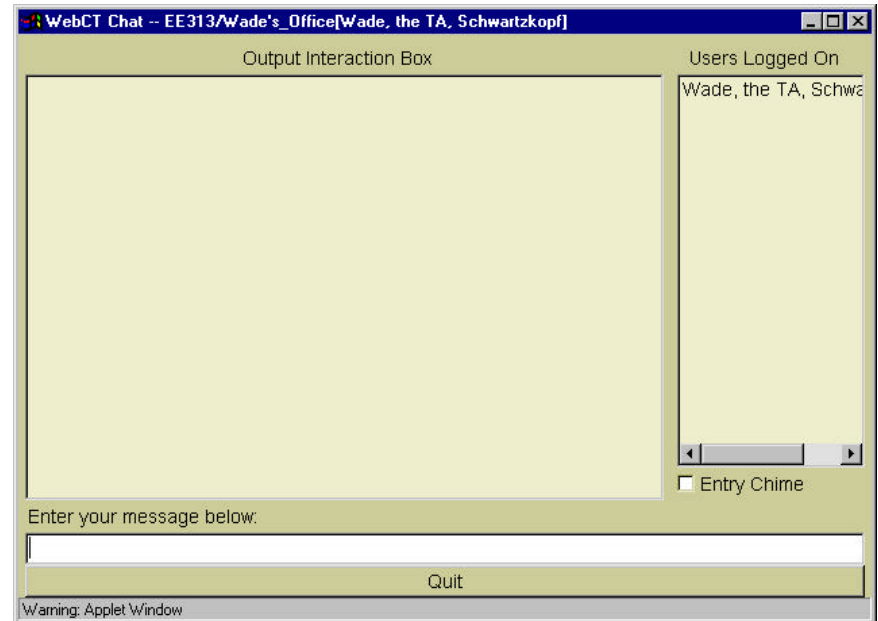<-<-<-<- David Paul Higley disconnected at: Tue Sep 7 1999 20:35:54

TA>>Jonathan?

Jonathan Francis Wong>>sorry, what's the code to produce an output for the function

Jonathan Francis Wong>>prob 2.3

Jacy S. Little>>Does anyone want to come to another room and help with the proof problem (2.4)?

WebCT Chat -- EE313/Wade's_Office[Wade, the TA, Schwartzkopf]

Output Interaction Box

Users Logged On

Wade, the TA, Schwa

☐ Entry Chime

Enter your message below:

Quit

Warning: Applet Window

WebCT Chat Rooms

WebCT Whiteboard

Advantages of Using WebCT

- Handles administrative overhead created by student inquiries into grades and performance
- Students verify recorded grades
- Students discuss homework solutions with each other at any time.
- Instructors can hold virtual office hours
- Accessible from anywhere in the world: UT news groups and professors are on campus

Disadvantages of Using WebCT

- 40 hours per week for setup
  - Set up student usernames and passwords
  - Give instructions to students, e.g. enable style sheets on Netscape
- 5 hours per week on site maintenance