Communication, Collaboration and Controversy Building in Digital Learning Networks

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Proven Strategies

• Communications
  – interactions between faculty and students
  – interactions between faculty and colleagues
  – interactions between classmates

• Collaboration
  – learning in teams
  – learning alongside peers

• Controversy building
  – providing accesses to alternative viewpoints
  – advocating competing views.
CS1105: Computing and Society

- Compulsory for SoC students (~500 last semester)
- Expose students to broader societal issues surrounding the use of ICT and ethical and legal considerations on ICT-related activities.
- Weekly 2-hour lecture (with webcast) + 1 hour tutorial
- Participation – 30%
- Group assignments and project
CS1105

• Communications and collaboration
  – Announcements
  – Emails
  – Discussion forums
    • Organised per tutor
    • Administration
    • Assignments
  – Workbins
  – Chat sessions

• Controversy
  – Survey
  – Discussion forums
A website showing types of body wearable computers. It seems like technology has progressed at such a fast pace that everyday, new devices are being introduced into the market. Although such devices may seem to be taking over people’s jobs, they actually make people work faster at a more efficient rate.

This site features a detailed analysis of what trademarks can be registered, advantages of registration, how to register a trademark and guidance on maintaining a trademark portfolio:

IT AsiaOne has an article on how wireless technology can narrow the digital divide in South-East Asian countries. The article can be accessed at http://it.asia1.com.sg/newsdaily/news006_20020624.html. I think that building wireless infrastructure is more cost effective than laying cables to each individual home, therefore wireless technologies may enable more people to be connected to the Internet in future. Perhaps the foreign students can give suggestions on how to bridge the digital divide in their countries. For Singapore, I think that our data communications networks are well developed already with about 1 million people surfing at
1) "Hackers are good. Crackers are bad." Do you agree?
   - Strongly agree
   - Agree
   - Neutral
   - Disagree
   - Strongly disagree

2) $X$, $Y$, and $Z$ are three computer hackers. $X$ has defaced many popular webpages. $Y$ has planted computer viruses. $Z$ has spammed the mail networks. How would you rank their criminal offences?
   - $X$ is the most criminal
   - $Y$ is the most criminal
   - $Z$ is the most criminal
   - They are equally criminal
   - It depends

3) $X$ uses ICT to spread pornography. $Y$ uses ICT in stalking his ex-girlfriend. $Z$ uses ICT to publicise access code for licensed software. How would you rank their criminal offences?
   - $X$ is the most criminal
   - $Y$ is the most criminal
   - $Z$ is the most criminal
   - They are equally criminal
   - It depends

4) "Software piracy is a victim-less crime." Do you agree?
   - Strongly agree
   - Agree
   - Neutral
   - Disagree
   - Strongly disagree

5) "Cyberwar can be much more destructive than real war." Do you agree?
   - Strongly agree
Controversy: Survey result

CS1105 Survey on Privacy in ICT

Q1: “To protect privacy, it is wrong to conduct electronic surveillance on suspected criminals such as paedophiles.”
Q2: “To protect privacy, it is wrong to post students’ academic results on a public bulletin board or website.”
Q3: “The use of smart cards is an infringement of personal privacy.”
Q4: “Upon registering on a Website, would you be more reluctant to give out your identity card number than your telephone number?”
Q5: “Do you avoid posting to newsgroups because you are concerned about your privacy?”
Controversy:: discussion & debate

I think they are equally worse since they have negative effects in the short or long term. Spreading porn will affect children or young adults in the long term while stalking will have an immediate impact on the victim and spreading of access codes will have a negative effect on the software industry in the long term. However, the seriousness of these crimes will depend on many factors and we do not know how the criminal uses ICT to stalk his ex-girlfriend.

Tutorial 8 has a rather interesting question... it asks us to decide what kind of criminal act is more serious... it ranges from spreading porn using ICT, stalking ex-girlfriend using ICT and spreading of access codes using ICT.

Personally i think the above cases can be divided into 3 main categories. Social, personal and commercial.

I feel that stalking will be more serious because for spreading of porn and access codes... we know that at least there are people out there who are benefiting...=))

just my 2C worth
Reflections

• Culture is lacking
  – Students participate only for marks
  – Chat sessions only good for rapport
  – Feedback show sentiments against evaluating forum postings and survey participation
    – Why read more?
    – Why share?

• Consistency and fairness
Suggestions

• Delegate responsibilities
  – Managing forum
  – Leading, summarizing discussion

• Reward
  – Initiative
  – Consistency

• Make Visible
Wishlist

• Library of collected readings
• Voting
  – Best reading
  – Best posting
  – Best contributor/leader/manager
  – Own best entry
• Outlining/labeling
  – Multidimensional categorization
• Monitoring and regulating
  – Participant tracking
  • Identify laggards early
  • Just browsing?
CS3250 GDSS Lab

Agenda for Wednesday, February 12, 2003, 9-11am

There should be no exam for CS3250

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Agenda</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:05</td>
<td>Briefing by Facilitator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:10</td>
<td>Appointment of Helpers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GDSS Lab: Vote for Meeting 3

Section: A

2) A good weight for Final Exam to be used in CS3250 course

- 0%
- At least 20%
- At least 30%
- At least 40%
- 100%
- Others

Chat Topic:

- we do learn thinkgs from project ....but it tests only certain things ....that is why we need finals
- i mean not totally, but is a different angle...
- all the things from the begnning as majezto have said
- I agree with renne point about applications
- but not everything can be learnt while applying
- some of the theories that we need to know may not be used in a project
Idea Categorizer

- Low trust levels
- Inadequate understanding of the group's goals
- People who try to dominate a meeting
- Some members monopolize the conversation
- Overdependence on supervisors
- Ineffective communication

You can copy an idea to a category.
There should be no Final exam for CS3250

There are better ways than examination
other universities use projects and other stuff in place of exam
what alternatives can we try?
We have project
Re: We have project
Re: what alternatives can we try?
Midterms & others
Class discussions
nature of module makes a difference
Re: nature of module makes a difference
Exam is unfair
such test of knowledge is only short term
Some exams benefit muggers and those that regurgitate
Different markers
Final Exam should stay in CS3250
Exam is testing students' comprehension of the subject.
if we do not test ourselves, how do we know that we learnt?
study for exam
Re: study for exam
What's a good % for Final Exam?
Further thoughts

• Collaborative knowledge construction
  – Multidimensional categorization
    • FLE2 categorization
      – Problem
      – Working theory
      – Comments
      – Summary
    • Topic/subtopic
      – Reflective learning
      – Ontology support
    • Others
    • Visualization and guidance
Further thoughts

• Teacher’s role
  – Not obscured by technology

• Customization
  – Recognize differences
  – Defer assessment
  – Choice of method