

Problem Definition

College instructors are ill-equipped to gauge the level of understanding in a classroom. Questions go unasked out of fear of ridicule or throwing off the pace of the class once it has moved on.

My proposed solution is to write software to allow real-time voting on the overall understanding of a concept. In addition I want to allow students to post questions to these concepts and also allow other students to flag that question if they have the same question.

By the end of spring quarter I intend to have a large portion of the code written. By the beginning of summer quarter I plan to have a functioning beta version.

My resources include a domain name and a hosting service.

Research/Analysis

- Option 1: A Linux service and client pair that would handle incoming connections and queries to a mysql database. This would be written entirely in C.
- Option 2: A web service written in PHP and Javascript (utilizing jquery mobile) that would handle mySQL queries.

Proposed Solution

The most practical solution would be a web service written in PHP and Javascript. This implementation would make the service available to more people because it would run off of a common port number and it utilizes a technology that almost every mobile device can take advantage of easily.

Potential Applications

This web application could be utilized in colleges and high schools to help the instructors/teachers be more effective at their jobs. It would also allow a longterm analytical model to be constructed that would allow the instructor to see his effectiveness over a long period of time.