

About lecture scores:

I will assign each of you a code, so that you do not use your name on exams. This protects your privacy when scantron exams are handed back. Also, I will post lecture exam scores on the course web site by the code.

I expect that some percentage of the students in the class will forget their code... maybe multiple times! I will come to lecture with a list of names and codes, and after everyone has started the exam those who have forgotten their code may come up individually and get it.

Personally, I hate having to remember passwords, codes, pins and so forth but you know what -- this is modern life. If people did not sue the university for millions of dollars because they got their nose bent out of joint when another student saw the D- on their exam, well we wouldn't be worrying about this so much.

You may then ask: fine, but why not just use WebCT (aka Blackboard) which cures the problem. Here are some reasons:

Blackboard is clunky, cumbersome and prone to problems. I can get your scores up more quickly and made edits more quickly with my own web site. Blackboard is constantly changing and morphing into different products and can be flakey. It really is not very stable. Blackboard still does not solve the problem of handing back scantrons with real names on them. Blackboard is a problem for students making up incompletes or who have not yet paid their fees. Those students must log in with a guest account, and this is a real pain to manage. Students making up an incomplete are not actually enrolled in the course and then WebCT/Blackboard will not allow them access to any of the course materials, or to see their scores.