

MATHEMATICS COLLOQUIUM

WeBWorK: Online Homework System by Mathematicians for Mathematics Students

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In this talk we give a short introduction to WeBWorK, “yet another” internet-based method for delivering homework problems to students over the internet.

The WeBWorK software package was created and is maintained by a group of mathematicians at the University of Rochester. While it shares the basic ideas of most other online testing systems, it has some distinctive features, probably the most notable one is that it is freely downloadable. It is a UNIX based software package with no relation to any textbook publisher. There are many existing exercises for many different Mathematics classes and new problems can be written easily for any class (engineering, chemistry, physics, etc) that require quantitative, functional or multiple choice answers. The mathematics part of assignments is written in LaTeX, the programming part is written in Perl.

The speaker received some very nice comments this Fall semester from former students regarding WeBWorK after having used it extensively in the Spring 2004 semester in two of his Calculus 3 classes. It was useful for students not just in learning Multivariable Calculus but some students were also able to learn finally how to use parentheses properly and other simple mathematical skills.

The speaker plans to make this presentation an interactive session so please arrive early to obtain access to a workstation.

Date: Monday, September 27
Time: 3:15pm
Place: MAGC 2.216-Math Studio Classroom

Refreshments will be served at 3:00pm.

For further information or for special accommodations, contact Dr. Cristina Villalobos at 381-2123, via email at mcvilla@utpa.edu, or visit www.math.panam.edu/colloquia.html