



The Midquarter Evaluation System in the Stanford Statistics Department

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Context – Statistics Dept

- Small department!
- No undergrad program
- Everyone TAs
- Lots of small high level classes
- Generally a “hands off” approach to TAing



Why a midquarter evaluation system?

- Provides feedback for TAs at a time when they can actually change and improve their performance.
- Allows instructors to catch potential issues before they become problems.
- Gives an objective performance measure that can be used for TA awards, letters of recommendation...



Concerns

- Student anonymity
- System should be easy for students to use
- Evaluation results should be timely, and useful
- Easy to implement the system (doesn't die with the creator!)



Solutions

- Dedicated evaluation website
- Using Stanford's formage (cgi) to collect data
- Using .htaccess files to save SUID
- Shell scripts to convert data from whois
- Splus to analyze results, excel



Unforeseen Problems

- Feedback system to TAs – delicate!
 - Who does it?
 - What is communicated?
 - What is private?
- Followup at the end of the quarter



Implementation

- Test run with approval from prof in charge of TA training
- Faculty meeting presentation (approval, suggestions, information dissemination)
- Trying it out!
- I got paid too!!