

KURKI Improved (CHI 2009 proceedings)

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ABSTRACT

In this paper we describe improved workflow for CS dept teaching staff to input students' points and grades into necessary booking systems for grading purposes.

Author Keywords

KURKI, BASH, excel, cellular automata.

ACM Classification Keywords

H.TODO

INTRODUCTION

We have implemented a better way for inputting students' grades and points into CS dept's grading system KURKI. The previous workflow is crappy. Ours is estimated to be in the range of 5..20 times faster.

CURRENT KURKI SYSTEM

Current KURKI workflow is crappy. Figure 1 shows the current web system. Note how you can only input one set of points, "laskuharjoituspisteet" for week 1, at a time. While doing that, you don't see the other sets, so you have no indicator if you are inputting the right points.

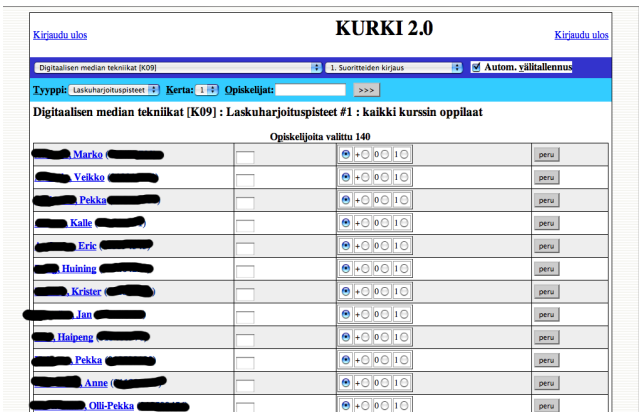


Figure 1. KURKI

Not only that, but the KURKI web interface uses unaccessible JavaScript, is available only in Finnish and confuses users by keeping its own state on the server. This occasionally loses points already input into the interface, saying that the server state doesn't match the client's, which doesn't make even any *technical* sense.

OUR WORKFLOW

We made a BASH script for inputting the points into KURKI. That way, you only need to set the general course settings on the web interface, while our script

imports all the students and their points into KURKI.

We found that general excel works best for bookkeeping the points. That's what normal people use, and it works for them. Naturally, our script uses a straightforward excel export as its input. This keeps any extra overhead at minimum.

In addition, we experimented by storing our bookkeeping in Google Documents, as shown in figure 2. This centralizes our data, and automatically handles version controlling. Immediately when inputting the points for current week, we will see the previous weeks' points, and the points given by other course staff. This kind of pervasive ubiquitousness can only be accomplished with real, sparkly people.

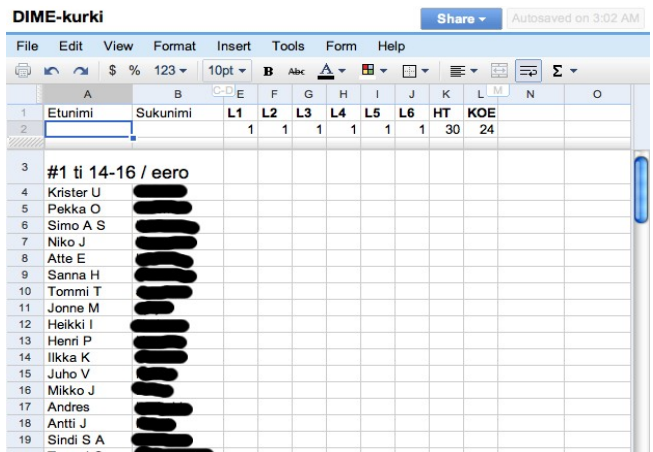


Figure 2: Google Documents

CONCLUSION

We have made inputting student points into CS dept's booking system a pleasant experience, which it has never before been. This should now grant our "teaching improvement quality price 4 mljrd EUR".

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank our work mate Harri, who has kindly fixed the bug from KURKI preventing adding students by student number.

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