An Online Assessment Submission System

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- SPIRIT Project Overview
- Problem caused by the large number of required assessment documents and other program participant deliverables
- Solutions we have used
- Overview of essignments.com
- Hands-on demonstration for using the system
- Future plans
- Questions and answers

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- SPIRIT is Surprising Possibilities Imagined and Realized through Information Technology

- SPIRIT celebrates the immense impact that information technology has on our world and seeks to rekindle enthusiasm for field as a career choice among high school students, especially young women.

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- The SPIRIT website: www.ITPossibilities.org
- Supported by the National Science Foundation, #DRL-0737679
- Three-year project: 1/2008 – 12/2010
- Intervention programs for HS teachers, HS counselors, and HS students to increase female interest in IT

- Correct negative perceptions about IT
  - IT skills relevant to a broad range of disciplines
  - IT can benefit society
  - IT can be fun, welcoming, interesting
  - Both men and women can have successful careers in IT
- Let participants try out and create many interesting & useful applications
- Give guidance on what to do now to have a successful career in IT

Two students having fun at the SPIRIT 2008 program for high school students. Photo courtesy of Lafayette Journal & Courier.

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- Two-week teacher institute

- Two-week program for counselors (during week two)

- One-week summer camp for students (during week two)

- Week 2 activities
  - Learn how to create Alice worlds (animated stories and interactive games)
  - Complete hands-on activities that show a variety of unexpected ways that IT can benefit society
    - Forensics
    - Manufacturing
    - Robotics
  - Listen to (and ask questions of) dynamic speakers who have successful IT experiences, work on interesting issues, and solve problems that positively impact society

- SPIRIT requires participants to submit a large number of assessment documents
  - Prior to attending
  - Session evaluation forms each day while attending
  - After attending
- Participant compensation was tied to submission of these documents

Paper documents?

- Keeping track of "who submitted what"
- Absences at in-service meetings
- Transcribing costs and errors
- Not "green"
- No backup mechanism for paper documents except to photocopy and create more paper

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Send documents as Email attachments?

- Spam filters make email not as reliable as it once was
- Attachment file size restrictions
- Can't enforce deadlines
- Multiple submissions "just to be sure it was received"
- Mixed in with other correspondence
- Too much email already

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Overview of essignments.com

- A general-purpose, web-based, electronic submission system that gives instructors the ability to accept paperless assignments

- Students submit assignment materials to course instructors

- Instructors can use the system to provide feedback on graded assignments to the students

- Originally created in 1999 for use in large computer programming courses to allow students to submit their homework for grading

Benefits

- Web interface for students and instructors
- Supports an unlimited number of users
- Supports any file format from any PC platform
- More structured and reliable than email
- Immediate submission confirmation
- Quickly able to see who has submitted documents

Benefits (continued)

- Dates and times can be defined for when documents can be submitted

- Electronic documents allow for easy backup

- Retrieve an individual document or all at the same time

- No special network administration is required since instructors and students maintain their own accounts

- Built-in features to handle *zip* files

- Free to use

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Download a tutorial at:

http://www.essignments.com/Help/essignments_instructor_tutorial.ppt

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- # Create an instructor account
  - – Use authorization code "CPT"

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- Add a "Course"

- Add "Assignments"

- Post a link to your account

- For example,

  – http://essignments.com/?alias=MrRoberts&coursecode=SPIRIT2009

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- ## Participants create student accounts

Create Student Account

User Name:	cindynelson — examples: "lildude56" or "goody2shooes"
Password:	•••••••••••• — password is case sensitive
Password Confirm:	••••••••••••
Password Hint:	first and last name
First Name:	Cindy
Last Name:	Nelson
Telephone Number:	— optional. format: (nnn) nnn-nnnn
Email Address:	cindynelson@purdue.edu — optional

Logon
Logoff
Change Account
Submit a File
Retrieve a File
List All Submitted Files
Delete a File
Show Password Hint

Help

OK

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- # Documents are submitted

Select Assignment

Select an assignment from the list below to continue.

Instructor: **Mr. Bob Robert**

Assignments for course: **SPIRIT2009**

Title	Due Date	Submit After	Submit Before
Week1Assessment	7/1/2009 8:00 am		7/2/2009 10:00 pm

Logon
Logoff
Change Account
Submit a File
Retrieve a File
List All Submitted Files
Delete a File
Show Password Hint

Help

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- ## Documents are submitted

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- # Documents are submitted

Select File to Submit

File ActivityPresentation_Students.doc received OK.

Click here to list all files submitted for this assignment, or use the form below to submit another file for this same assignment.

Instructor: **Mr. Bob Robert**

Course: **SPIRIT2009**

Assignment: **Week1Assessment**

Choose File | No file chosen

Submit

Logon
Logoff
Change Account
Submit a File
Retrieve a File
List All Submitted Files
Delete a File
Show Password Hint

Help

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- ## Instructors view documents submitted

Select Student Folder

Select a folder from the list below to continue.

Instructor:	**Spirit Instructor**
Course:	**Students09**
Assignment:	**Assignment 1**

Accounts:
Logon
Logoff
Create an Account
Change Account
Show Password Hint

Courses:
Add
Change
Delete

Assignments:
Add
Change
Delete

Instructor Files:
Send a File
Retrieve a File
Delete a File

Student Files:

	Folder Name	Modified
1.	Alexander_Ashley_5461	7/17/2009 10:01 am
2.	Alford_Brittany_5537	7/16/2009 8:50 am
3.	Ashford_Taylor_5463	7/17/2009 9:12 am
4.	Bag_Roshni_5464	7/17/2009 7:53 am
5.	Bailey_Jessica_5538	7/17/2009 7:45 am
6.	Bogan_Abbie_5466	7/16/2009 9:38 am
7.	Bohannon_Haley_5467	7/16/2009 7:33 pm
8.	Briney_Laura_5468	7/16/2009 9:35 am
9.	Byers_Julie_5469	7/16/2009 7:46 pm
10.	Byrd_Taylor_5470	7/17/2009 9:09 am
11.	carter_kelsey_5539	7/16/2009 7:12 pm
12.	Chen_Jessie_5473	7/17/2009 8:11 am

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- Instructors view documents submitted

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- Instructors can download individual submissions or package and download all submissions at once

- The essignments File Packager works similar to *zip* or *rar* files

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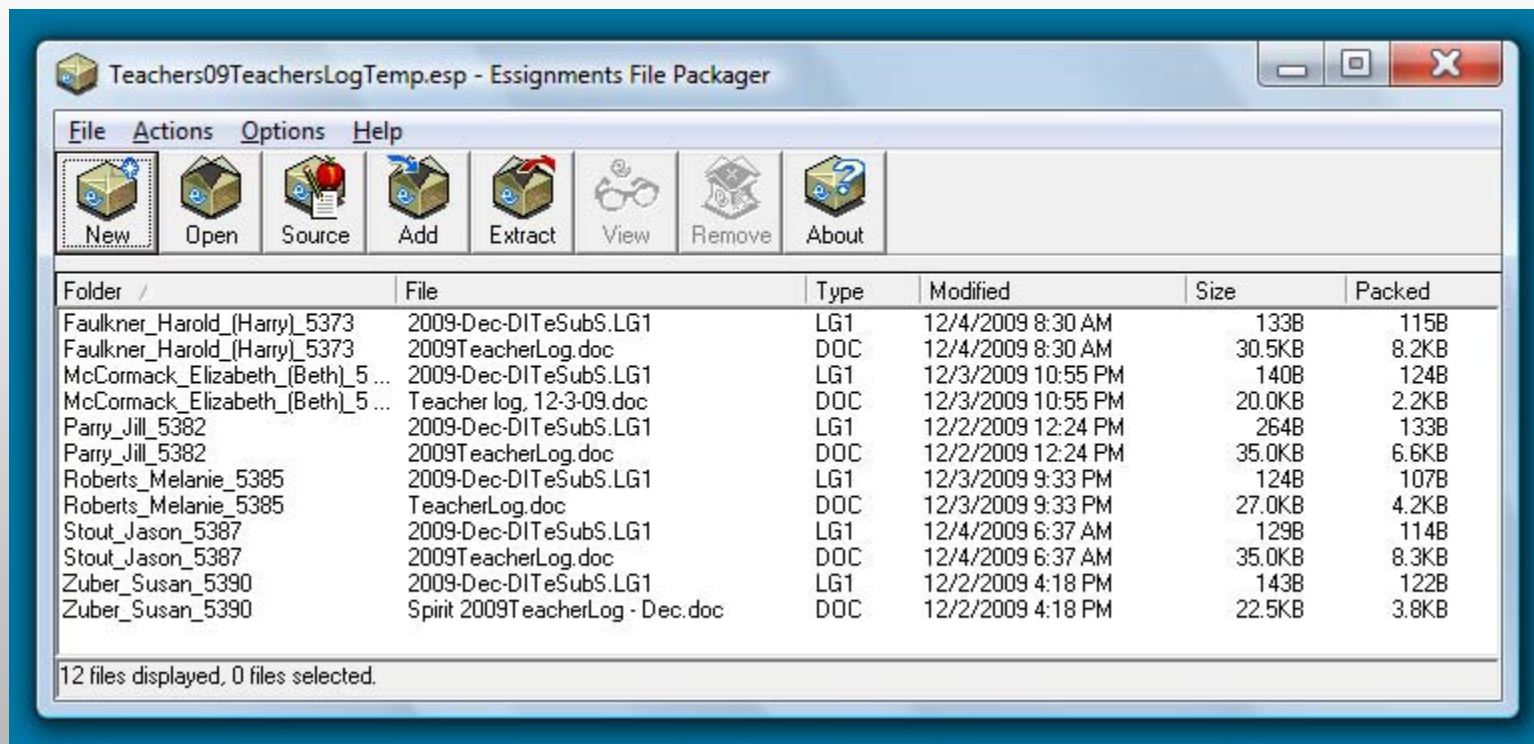
- Optionally, instructors can edit submissions, repackage, and return to the students

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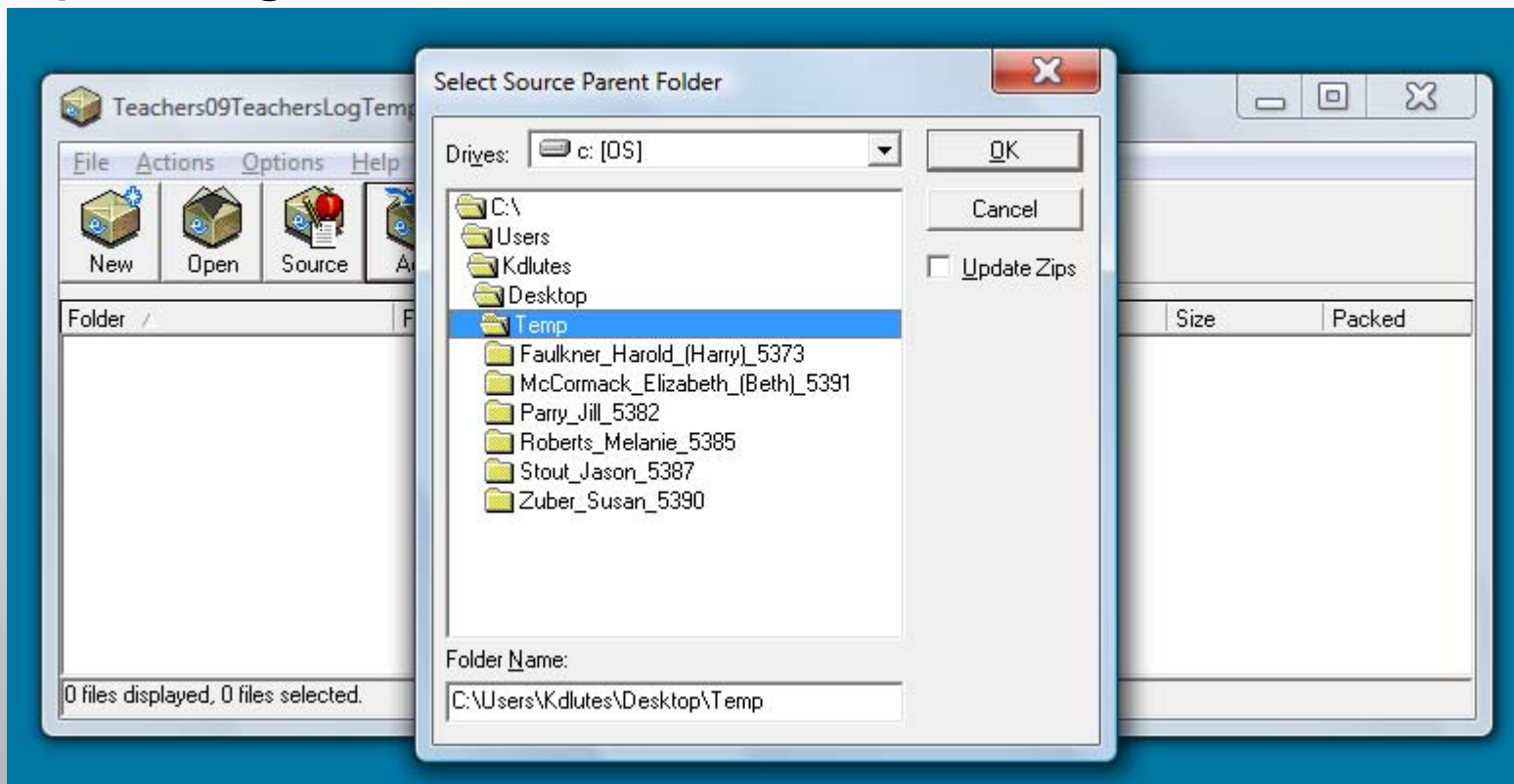
- Future Development
  - Add Course Management System features
  - New user interface for instructor
  - Require students to be authorized before they have access to a course
  - Course home page customization
  - More easily share documents with students
  - Suggestions appreciated

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- Electronic assignments submission systems such as essignments.com can be an effective tool to help manage assessments and other deliverables you need to collect
- The SPIRIT project has been using essignments.com for the past two years

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Questions?

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Essignments.com contact

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