

Using wikis to encourage collaborative writing and learning

Gould, Cox & Blandford

This case study relates to the topic “HC/Human factors and security” topic in the CS2013 curriculum working document.

What I tried successfully

- Motivating students to write by telling them about Harold Thimbley’s chapter “Write Now!”
- Motivating the students to write by explaining the lack of existing text books in the area, and the potential for creating and publishing their own.

Changes that I made

- Moved the activity from off-line to on-line via a wiki
- From each writing a section which needed to be collated by staff, to writing on a wiki and thus getting the students to act as co-authors on everything

Readings I found interesting

- The material cited in the paper.

Tips and strategies I found useful

- Getting the students to agree to a deadline for when the first draft of a chapter should be done (2 weeks after the lecture)
- Have an amazing Teaching Assistant whose role was to monitor the wiki and deal with formatting issues and any conflicts! Students feel more comfortable approaching with informal queries

What I found challenging

- Choosing a wiki that was well matched to our requirements.

What did not work for me

- Finding the time to turn the students efforts into a published book.

What would have helped me

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