

Managing Course Management Systems

This discussion will focus on the use of course management systems (WebCT, Blackboard, TopClass, et al.) by computer science educators to administer their courses. Come share success stories, "war stories", workarounds, advice, and the like.

Course management systems (CMS) are increasingly used in higher education. Functions of a CMS include convenient installation and management of web pages, student records, and online quizzes, tests, and homework submission. Other typical features include automated monitoring of student performance, threaded discussion groups, dedicated chat room, etc. The typical CMS is usable by a wide audience of educators, not only those with sophisticated computing expertise. However, our experience has been that computer scientists will have specialized needs and perspectives on CMS use that differ from those of the typical academic users. This discussion will focus on the limitations and possibilities of CMS systems from the perspective of computer science educators.