



INLS 490-154W: Information Retrieval Systems Design and Implementation

Fall 2009 Web-based course

Introduction

Get ready, get started, get going

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What we're going to do

- See how search services can be created.
- Learn about search engine “secrets” (indexing, retrieval methods, ranking, organization).
- Deal with unstructured data (mostly).
- Get our hands (and knees) dirty by crawling on the Web.
- Build functional interfaces.



What we're NOT going to do

- Work with structured data (with small exceptions)
- Learn how to program.
- Build websites that “can fly”.
- Use proprietary software.

Requirements

- Basic experience with some programming environment (UNIX preferred).
- Laptop and a bunch of software (available for free).
- Open mind and a sense of adventure!

```
begin
  $query = <STDIN>;
  $document = "Hello world";
  if ((strcmp($query, $document) == 0)
      print "Match\n";
  else
      print "Sorry, no match found.\n";
end
```

The gory details

- Quizzes
 - 5 or 6.
 - Lowest score dropped.
- Assignments
 - Almost every week. Total 10 to 12.
 - Late policy.
- Online discussion
- Project
 - Proposal due October 30th
 - Final project due December 8th
- Grades on Blackboard
- Office hours
 - By appointment.
- Website, class slides, class notes, and podcast



Quiz #0

- Once you login, the quiz will start immediately.
- 10 minutes to complete.
- After 10 minutes, penalty of 1 point per extra minute spent.
- Once the quiz starts, DO NOT click on back/forward/refresh button or switch window/tab.
- All the quizzes are closed-book. Using any external source during a quiz is UNETHICAL.



Today's lab

- Get your machines ready
- Learn a little bit about UNIX
- Access the database
- Create a table
- Access the information in the table



Assignment- I

- Assigned: 08/28/2009 (today)
- Due: 09/01/2009 (Tuesday)
- Email the answers with “INLS 490: Assignment- I” in the subject.



A word of advice to make your life easy!

- Review the basics.
- Create a “good” working environment.
- Try one thing at a time.
- Start a problem/assignment as soon as you can.
- Keep backups.



Summary

- Why we're here, what we'll do, what we'll stay away from.
- This is not a “traditional” class.
- Try it to learn it.
- Basic UNIX
- Basic MySQL



Next time

- Create webpage on the fly using data in MySQL.
- Unstructured data access from (1) MySQL and (2) text files.