

# An introduction for Teaching assistants and others.

Using WHS

UK Math.

January 10, 2011

# Outline.

- This document is intended to give a brief introduction to WHS (Web Homework System) implemented by the Department of Mathematics.
- It is mainly written for teachers and teaching assistants who may be new to the system.  
There are many suggestions here, meant for the students. It is expected that the teachers and the teaching assistants will pass this information along to their students.
- Once you get into the WHS web pages, there is a menu called "tutorials" which gives more detailed information about the use of WHS. The students should be encouraged to view these sections as needed.

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# What is WHS?

- WHS (Web Homework System) is implemented on Mathclass (<https://www.mathclass.org>). You will see detailed "log in" instructions at its front page.
- A student registered in a WHS based course is required to register into the system at the beginning of the semester. The procedure to do this is explained in the following pages.
- The teachers and teaching assistants are also required to do this, unless they have an active Mathclass account already.
- WHS does permit signing up for any class as a browser.
- But this causes problems with the account throughout the semester! Discourage this practice thoroughly! The students will not earn class credit and ad hoc fixes to such accounts often lead to later problems.
- the students must work in the classes and sections which naturally appear in their Web Homework menu.

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- Click on the link labeled Login to WHS. Login using your campus active directory account with the user name typed as "ad\UserName" and the usual password for the "UserName" account.
- If WHS decides that you need to set up a new Math Class account, then you will get a form entitled Register for an Account. Fill in the fields and submit the form.
- We describe the details of the Registration form. Once you are registered for a class, this may not come up again.

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# Registration Form.

- **Email:** Provide an e-mail where you will receive all further communication from WHS. Remember it well! In the future, you should log into WHS using this email as your user name.
- **Password:** Set the password to be used for your WHS account. It must be at least 7 characters long and include a character which is neither a letter nor a digit.
- **Security Question and Security Answer:** If you forget your password, you can have it reset by using the "Forgot your password" link on the login page and giving the Security Answer in response to the Security Question. The Security Answer is case sensitive.
- **First and Last Name:** These must be the same as what appears in your registration. If it does not match your record, your instructor may not be able to assign proper credit.

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# More about the Registration Form.

- **Affiliation:** Select College or University and another pull-down menu will appear. From it, select University of Kentucky. A text field labeled UK or AS Account will appear. Put in your active directory login name in the form ad\UserName (just like you did to login).
- Finally, To create the account, click on the **Create User** button, then click on the **Continue** button.
- Your WHS account should work normally. For students who have added the class within last few hours, there may be a delay of up to 24 hours for the new account to be active.
- For any further assistance, go to Mathskeller. (063 CB, basement of the Classroom Building).

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# Your Computer and WHS.

- **Software Requirements:** Use an internet browser, such as Internet Explorer 8.0 (or later version) or Firefox 3.1(or later version)(RECOMMENDED!).
- Safari will not work correctly.
- A special setup is needed **only** if you use Internet Explorer for a mathematics class. Even this may be unnecessary for any Windows pc in any SCS Lab or the Mathskeller.
- You may need special plugins and may have to set up special trusted sites.
- If you have problems with this procedure, temporarily use any SCS lab or the Mathskeller. (Search the University site [www.uky.edu](http://www.uky.edu) for such labs.) Some computers in the Library may not be part of an SCS lab.  
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# To do and not to do!

- Students should not attempt to make an independent account through Mathclass. The system permits it, but you will have a hard time getting into an organized class where you already would have a preset account!
- Students should not go searching for classes and trying to register for them, unless specifically instructed to do so. Generally, self enrolment is not permitted for classes where homework grade is counted.
- If there are questions about specific homework problems, be sure to use the feedback mechanism to seek help. The questions (or comments) can be about the meaning of the question, help with the solution process or your disagreement with the system's grading.  
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# The Instructors' Role.

- The instructors should regularly view the feedback requests from students in various sections. These are reported as email from WHS but should not be answered by an email reply!
- The response to a feedback question must be given through a menu in the Web homework page. As you follow the menu, you will see the question, the correct answer and the student's submission as well as the question or the comment by the student.
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# Communicating with Students.

- The students are encouraged to view their homework grades as well as exam and attendance grades through WHS.
- The homework grades are visible immediately, but the other grades need prompt input by the instructors. The policies vary from course to course and the course coordinators or Professors in charge should be consulted for this.
- It is possible to look up the list of registered students in a class through WHS and send emails to individual students by selecting some (or all) from the list. This can generate a lot of email traffic and should be used only when needed.
- You can post messages in the Web homework page. **Keep them short and put date of posting for clarity.** The students should be urged to read them, before asking further questions.

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# How to work with the homework?

- The homework system can display three types of versions:
- a common version or a personal version or a specific version of a homework.
- To receive credit, a student must use the personal version. The instructors should typically do problems from the common version where the system announces the correct answer after any answer is submitted.
- The instructor can also open any desired version. This is useful if you wish to see all the problems in that specific version. Depending on the privileges set, an instructor can also open a student's personal version and do the problems to award credit to the student.  
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# Advice to the students.

- Always use the "printer friendly" menu choice to print the homework problems. Work them by hand and then submit. Math course related printing is free in the Mathskeller!
- Do not wait till the last day to submit problems. There is no penalty for repeated submission.  
Ideally, the homework problems should be attempted as soon as they are discussed in class (or even earlier, when possible).
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# Continued Advice.

- WHS is designed for collaborative learning! Do discuss the problems with your friends, instructors, other people in places like Mathskeller or Study.  
Do not, however get someone else to give you just the answers. Do not put in an answer just because the system accepts it; understand why!
- The answers are submitted using what is termed the "calculator syntax". It is really the "Maple syntax" and all courses give detailed instructions on the way of entering the answers. Be sure to learn these early.
- There are also shortcuts to entering some answers. Learn these too!. Typically, this involves typing in a formula rather than a final number.
- WHS is picky about the accuracy of answers. Consult someone about how to improve your accuracy.

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# Further Advice.

- When you type in an answer, an "ok" might appear on your screen. This does not mean that your answer is correct, it only says that the syntax is correct! The correctness of the answer can only be checked by submitting the answer(s).
- The questions which are correctly answered are marked with green. Once this happens, the system will credit the student with the grade even though the student submits a wrong answer to the same question afterwards!
- All comments and queries about a problem can be entered in a response window right after the problem. This window lets you type the mathematical symbols precisely. Do take a little time to follow the tutorial link for this [asciimath](#) and learn its syntax. It will be very useful in the future!

# Further Advice.

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- If you have any doubt or difficulty, it is best to ask! You may use the WHS help message system or personally talk to your Professor or others who have used the system before. I will be happy to respond to your queries any time.
- WHS has been developed by collaborative efforts and input from the faculty at U.K. Its continued growth and improvement depends on you.
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