

cs4241-17a

“webware”

Facts & Myths (h/t Gary Pollice)

Fact: Many students know a lot about creating Web pages and Web sites

- You might know a lot more than I do.

Myth: The students in the previous fact know how to do it right and well.

Myth: Learning Webware is mainly about the tools (React, Rails, Django, ...)

Fact: Learning Webware is about learning principles and processes

Facts & Myths (h/t Gary Pollice)

Fact: You will understand the basics if you pass this course

Myth: You will be an expert if you pass this course

Fact: Web sites need to be designed and engineered

Hacked jobs are brittle and will not last*

*over-engineering is just as bad as a hacked job, because...

Fact: Web applications are often short-lived

Lane Harrison, PhD

Assistant Professor, WPI CS
(also AP in DS, IMGD, BCB)

Director of the VIEW lab
(data visualization)

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(ranked platinum in Overwatch)



our “stack”:

- javascript: client-side
- node: server-side
- heroku: deployment
- git: assignments, submissions, slides, etc.
- slack: communication



cs4241-17a.github.io

Slack!



For everything!



a glance at the past...

“Highlights”

- The professor is an excellent speaker and keeps us awake despite the 8am class time. His use of in class activity was fun and informative. This increased participation which is difficult to do in such a large class size.

His projects were excellent as they teach you the important bits of web development and leave you to learn on your own. This structure for the projects allows students to complete the project in a timely manner whilst also encouraging students to go beyond the requirements in order to get as much out of the course as they wish. The projects are small but consistent which works well to teach you a single concept at a time.

- The teacher spends time actively coding in class and showing us the process of what he's teaching, and he has in class activities to help us practice and not just ignore what he's saying with multitasking
- The topic of webware is a fascinating world in which it is possible to see things come together in amazing ways.
- The use of a class-wide Slack channel greatly expedited feedback, and more or less eliminated the need for office hours. We could ask

questions at any time and expect a relatively quick response, from either the instructor, our TAs, or even one of our peers.

Every course should do this.

- This class uses git for turning in assignments. All CS classes at WPI should use git. You're doing your students a disservice.
- Very good course to start off anyone with the basic knowledge of how to host custom webpage servers.
- Web development! Good balance of tech and design. I like the Slack for use of communications.

“Low Lights”

- The homeworks could be a bit fast-paced, but they were always doable. Having homeworks and the final project assigned at the same time was not the coolest.
- The in-class student presentations don't contribute much in my opinion and take up a lot of time.
- The instructor's lack of teaching ability is frustrating, and his attitude of borderline arrogance is grating. Frequently, concepts would be introduced in class and we'd just be told to look them up, or look at "MDN" instead of being given even so much as a cursory explanation, and the majority of our class time was almost always taken up by "demos" where Harrison would stand at the front of the room and write

01/12/2017

Class Climate evaluation

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Prof. Lane Harrison, CS 4241 - B01 WEBWARE:COMPU TECHN FOR N I S

code to illustrate a concept. This sounds better than it was, as oftentimes we'd be sitting for an hour, watching a program slowly grow while Harrison reviews syntax, when the demo could just as easily have been prepared in advance and reviewed more quickly - leaving time for actual explanations of concepts, preparation for homework, and perhaps even introducing more material. Lane was also disrespectful towards questions and differing viewpoints (jQuery is apparently a big issue for him).

- The structure of lecture. I think going over examples are helpful but it seems like there were a bunch of topics that the teacher wouldnt teach about but just skim over really quickly.
- Unfortunately, the professor managed to turn it into a dry topic devoid of any interest. The exams were dry, answers given to student questions were often wrong, and projects involved so little work as to be sinecurial, yet are worth 70% of the grade.
- Very spread out in terms of skill of individual students. Some come in with a lot of experience, others with no experience.
- When working on the final projects, the homeworks continued alongside instead of being incorporated in

- Varied skillsets is real.
(see our grading scheme)

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- We will emphasize Process over Product.

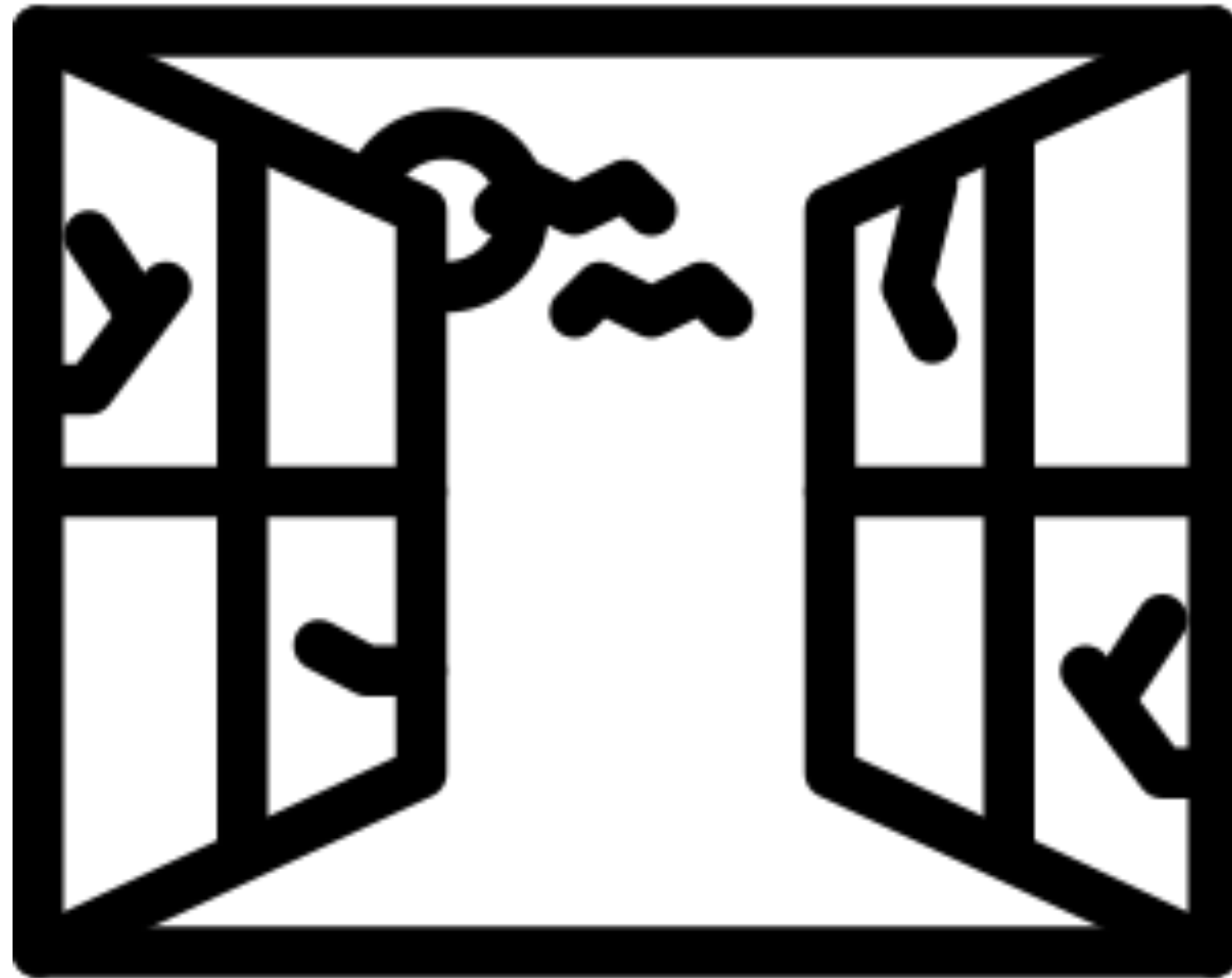
- Varied skillsets is real.
(see our grading scheme)
- We will emphasize Process over Product.
- I plan to fail, typo, forget, etc in front of you, because it's the reality of webdev.



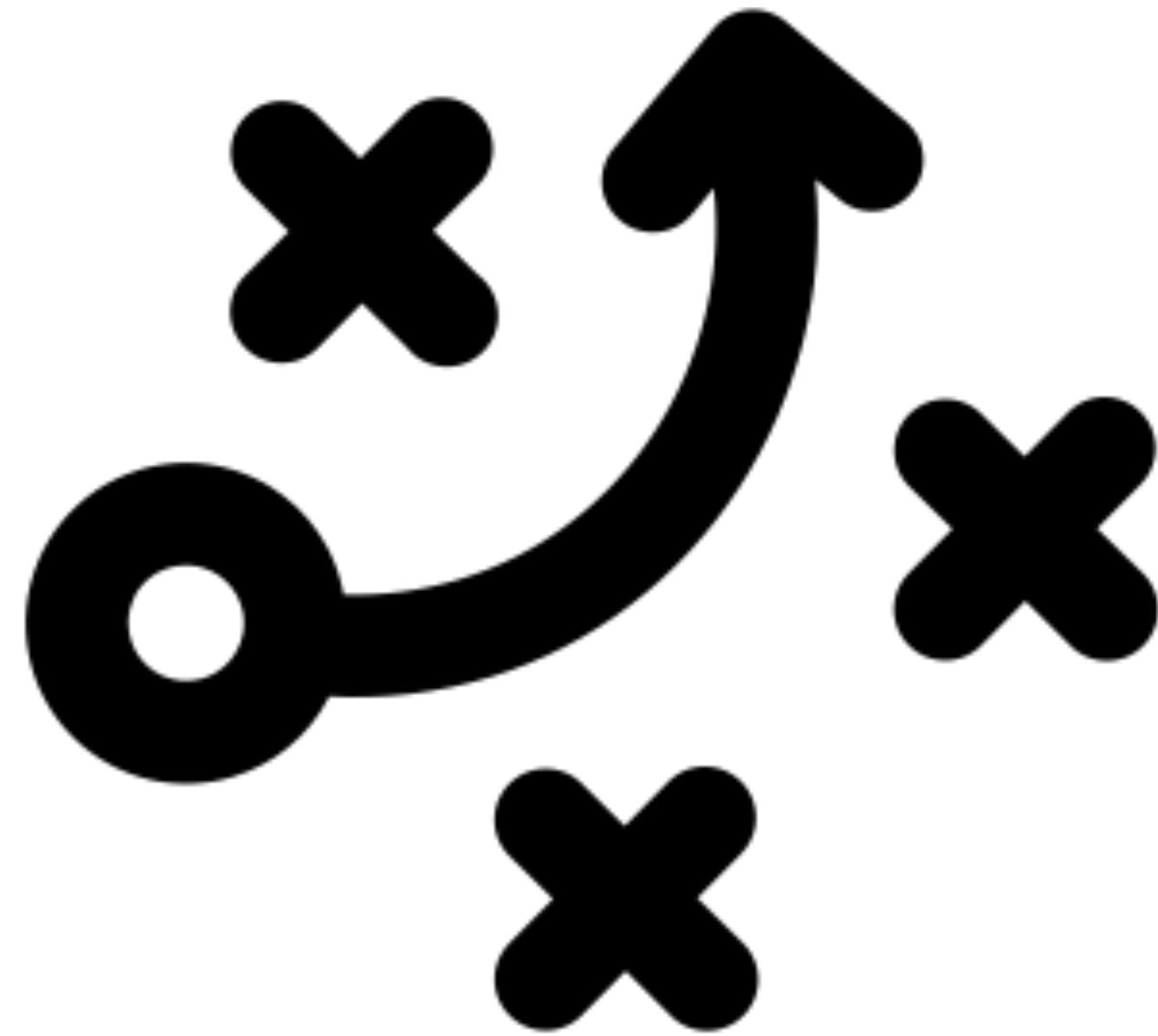
don't be afraid to drop



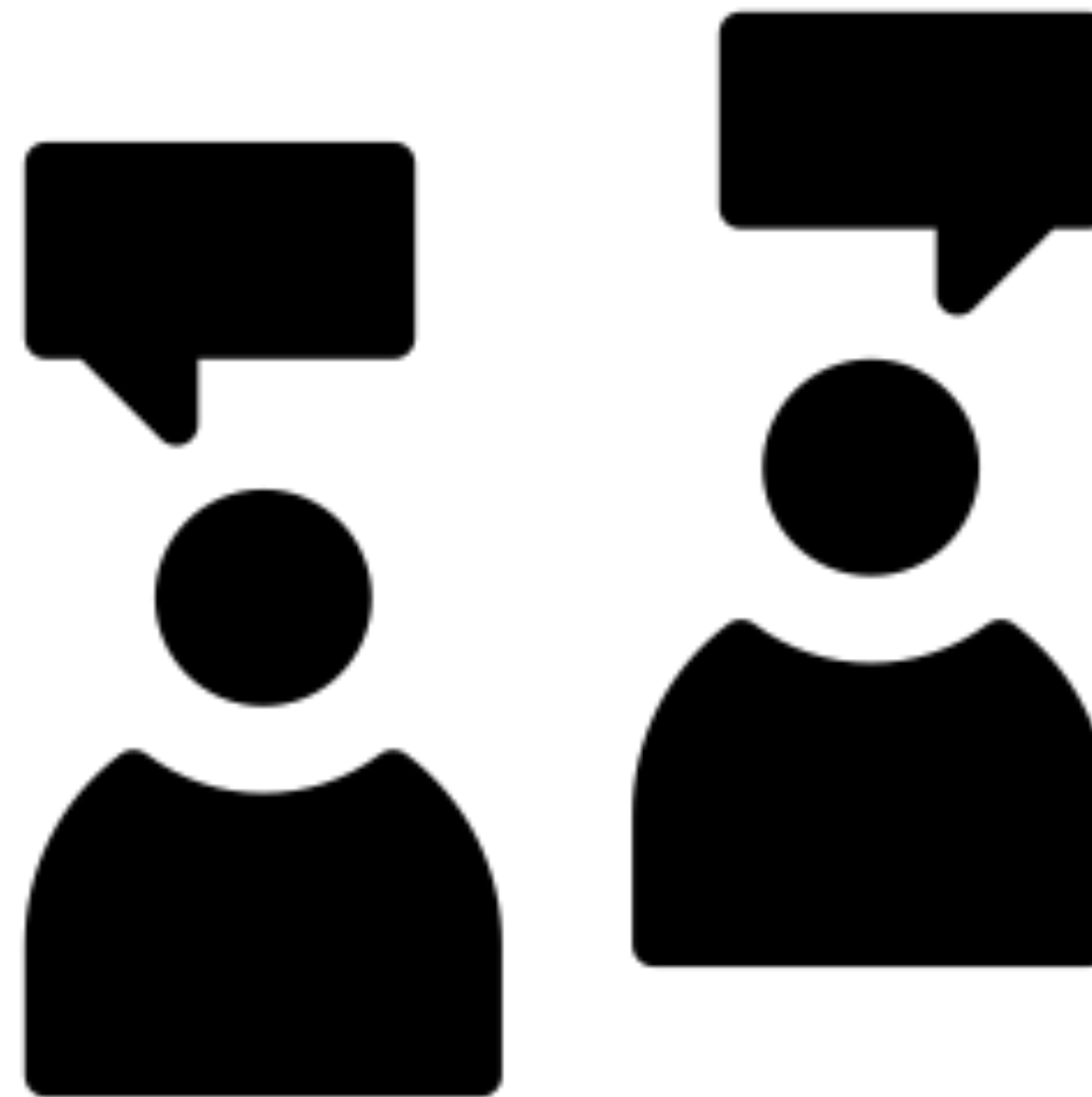
the successful student



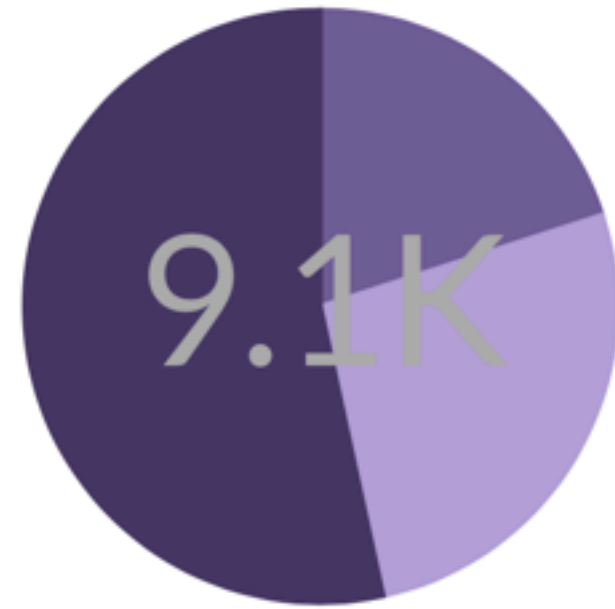
meets and moves beyond the
minimum requirements



actively uses “negative space”
in the course to develop and
achieve their own learning goals

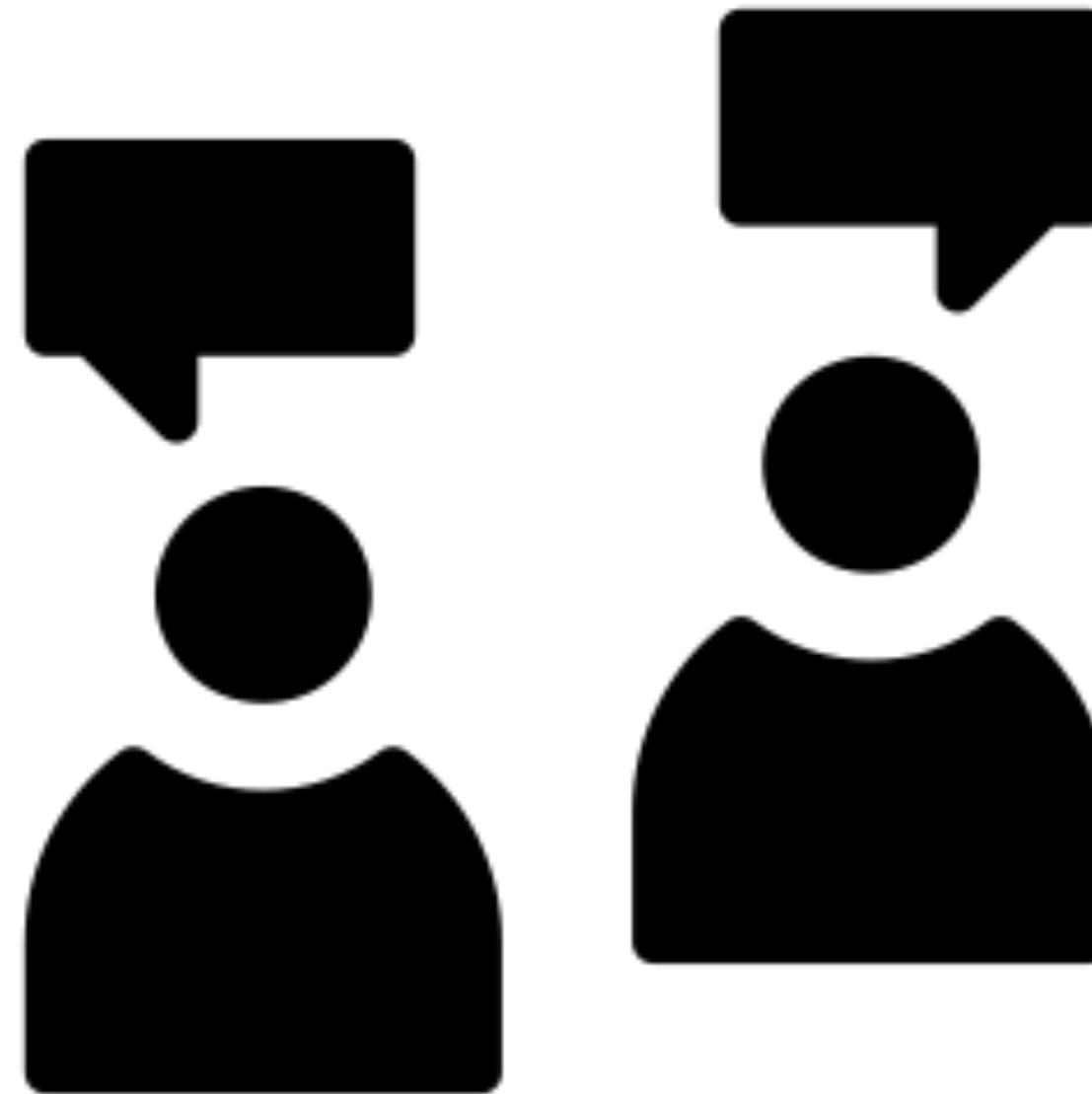


communicates, helps, and
engages with their fellow
aspiring webdevs



Total Messages

20% public channels,
27% private channels, 53% DMs



communicates, helps, and
engages with their fellow
aspiring webdevs



doesn't cheat



possibility: final project day



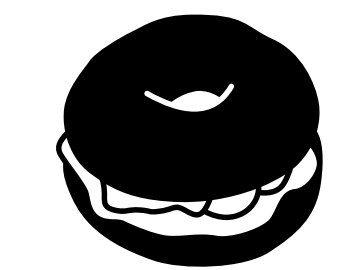
60 breakfast sandwiches



40 assorted pastries



~150 cups of coffee



60 breakfast sandwiches



40 assorted pastries



~150 cups of coffee

~\$900, raised via venmo; square