System Administration for Beginners

Syllabus

January 30, 2007

1 Course Information

CCN: 26389 (lower-division); 26608 (upper-division)

Facilitators: Calvin Ardi and Jameson Lee

Office Hours: TBA

Location and Time: 273 Soda, Tuesday 4:00-5:00 PM

Website: `http://www.ocf.berkeley.edu/sysadmin-class`

Course Description: The course will cover the setup and administration of a production-quality web server. Topics include the Internet infrastructure, use of a Unix environment, database use and administration, security in a multi-user environment, and emerging web technologies.

Course Goals: After completing this course, students will be able to setup their own web server. Students will also be able to coordinate and administer a secure multi-user web application environment.

Grading: This course will be graded on a Passed/Not Passed basis. For the purposes of this course, a Pass will be considered at least 60% correct. The final grade will be determined as follows: 50% project, 30% laboratories, and 20% homework. Laboratories and homework will be assigned during each course meeting and must be completed prior to the next course meeting. The course facilitators reserve the right to modify any of these conditions at any time.

2 Tentative Schedule

Week 1   Introduction to System Administration
Week 2   Introduction to UNIX
Week 3   UNIX Commands
Week 4   The Internet
Week 5   Server Daemons
Week 6   The Simplification of Week 5
Week 7   LAMPl
Week 8   Multi-User Environments
Week 9   Security
Week 10   Student Project / Special Topics
Week 11   Student Project / Special Topics

If there are any particular topics that you would like to see covered, we have reserved the last two meetings of class to discuss specific items that you may be interested in. Let us know anytime in person or in an e-mail.

3 Homework

1. Obtain an Open Computing Facility (OCF) account, if you do not already have one. The OCF is an all-volunteer, student-run, and student-initiated service group dedicated to free computing for all UC Berkeley students, faculty, and staff. They provide free printing, e-mail accounts, 400 MB of webspace, and Unix shell accounts. You will need to visit the OCF laboratory in Heller Lounge. For more information, please visit `http://www.ocf.berkeley.edu`.

2. E-mail the course facilitators, `cardi+decal@ocf` and `jameson@ocf`, with the following: name, preferred e-mail, and major and year (optional). At the moment this is how we will be tracking enrollment.

4 Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Stephen Le, former facilitator of the System Administration for Beginners DeCal, for providing the majority of the course notes, lesson plans, and help with server setup.