

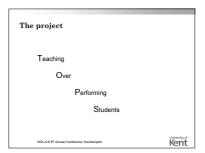
First year programming is problematic • some students can • some students can't ... what do we do • try to motivate them ail? • teach to the middle? • provide extra support for the strugglers? ... what about our best programmers?

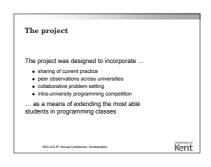
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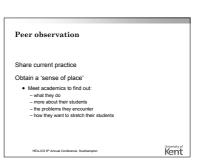
TOP students We all have top students obviously find the work easy programmed before pick fit up quickly find lectures too simple and slow get borred with mundane exercises We all have strategies to cope with our students Ours include: GSCS Rocket scientists If you have some to share let us know 1-1ay TOPS event

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Competition ... NEA-CS S* Annul Confessors, Stothurgton NEA-CS S* Annul Confessors, Stothurgton

Existing competitions

The IBM student competition
http://www.developer.ibm.com/university/students/contests/
The international imagine cup
http://imaginecup.com/
The ACM student research competition
sponsored by Microsoft http://www.acm.org/src/
BCS competition
http://www.bcs.org/
Topcoder collegiate challenge
http://www.topcoder.com/

Existing competitions Good points • Motivate good students • Are only for the best • Look good on the CV Bad points • Not linked to the curriculum • Students don't always want extra learning • International competitions lean towards US cc2001

Our competition

Based upon our curricula

- Using only what we expect our students to know
 Set a collaborative challenge
 Be more immediate and relevant

Look good on the CV

Motivate our top students

Our challenges

How many students?

- Determined by funding and rail fares
 What will the students do?

- Write code
 Present their work
 Must fit with all 4 syllabuses
 Must be interesting/relevant
 When will it happen?

Sponsorship?

VenuePrizes

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Our challenges - sponsorship

Sun Microsystems provided

- Venue
 Catering
 Some prizes

This fixed a date for the competition

14th March 2007

Our challenges - what will the students do

Scenario

Something relevent to a group of students attending a tech conference in London

Setting a challenge task

- Setting a Challerige task

 Students to set tasks

 Manageable in 1-hour by 2 students pair-programming

 Uses their ideas -- motivating

 Prize for best challenge

 Motivating

 Challenges more likely to be suitable

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Involving the students ...

Choose the team

Each institution chose its team in whatever way was appropriate to them

- Team size
 Students
 Students of bloodon
 Some students participated who otherwise couldn't
 back-up in case anybody dropped out

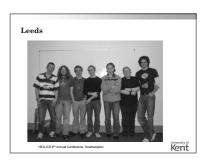
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How we did it ... Kent



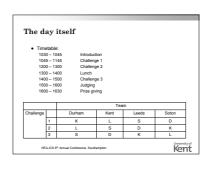


























Student feedback

Working together was great. Everyone worked amazingly well in teams.

I liked that we were supposed to work at our natural pace and that we had to think.

Making the challenge idea was easy, but the wording and the mark scheme weren't.

It was really intense, but great fun.

It's great – thank you for organizing it.

We've got a proper sign on the door like all the other rooms.

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We intend to run this again

The students enjoyed it
The students benefited from it

Next year

Probably teams of 5
 with 4 students going to London

Does anybody want to join us?

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