Hello incoming masters and PhD Students!

After a rigorous screening process (i.e. responding to an e-mail), I, Eric Rachlin, have been put in charge of Brown CS graduate student orientation. I have been attending Brown for a ludicrously long time (undergrad and now PhD), so I'm well qualified, plus I'm always eager to welcome new people to campus.

Some folks are already here, but most of y'all are going to arrive in August, new to both Brown and Providence, and hungry for guidance. To get everyone up to speed, there will be an orientation the week of August 28th. At orientation you'll meet the chair of the department chair, the head of our graduate program, our technical staff, our administrative staff, and most of our professors and graduate students. Most importantly, you'll hear about each and every professor's area of research.

Orientation will probably start on Tuesday the 29th. Also, there is a university wide graduate student orientation on September 1st, and a preorientation event for international students on Friday, August 25th (http://gradschool.brown.edu/go/gradcalendar2). I don't have a schedule for either of these, but a schedule for our CS orientation will soon appear at:

http://www.cs.brown.edu/~eerac/orientation.html

On Monday, I will send everyone an information packet containing a preliminary schedule, a course announcement, a list of requirements, information about Brown, a map of campus, a map of providence, etc...

For now you can check out our courses at:
http://www.cs.brown.edu/courses/
http://boca.brown.edu

and our program's requirements at:
http://www.cs.brown.edu/grad/masters/reqs/ or
http://www.cs.brown.edu/grad/phd/reqs/

Finally you can find housing at:
http://www.brown.edu/Administration/Rental_Properties/Listings/
http://providence.craigslist.org/apa/
http://brown.dailyjolt.com/housing/
http://listserv.brown.edu/archives/gsbb-l.html

and general information about Brown at:
http://www.brown.edu/Students/GSC/listservs.php
Both courses and requirements will be discussed at Orientation, so don't stress. Housing is probably the thing you should be thinking about now.

The third and fourth housing links are a particularly good place to look for a short sublet if you are getting to Brown early or don't want to rush into a one year lease. They are also a good way to find a roommate. If you post a request, you might even be able to find a temporary place for just the last week of August. I also know that a current graduate student, Mykhaylo Kostandov (mk@cs.brown.edu) is looking for a roommate for next year. Also feel free to e-mail me with any housing questions you have.

So that's about it for now. In order to make sure everyone reads this all the way through, here is one more task. Please e-mail me the login you would like. Mine is eerac (think Eric Ely Rachlin), a lot of people (like Mykhaylo), chose their initials (usually all three though) or their first or last name, or some combination of the two. Most undergrads (which don't get to choose their name) have the first letter of their first name followed by the first 7 letters of their last name, so you might want to set yourself apart with a short login.

Speak to you soon!