

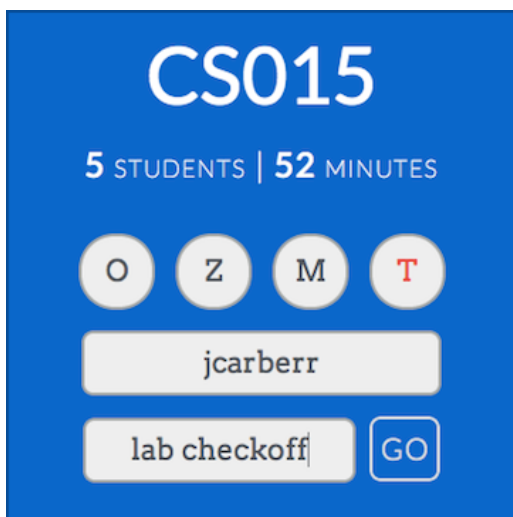
SignMeUp

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SignMeUp is a web application that makes it possible for students to sign up online for TA hours. Before discussing SignMeUp's capabilities, let us put the project and its idea into context.

Brown's Computer Science department runs a TA program through which students receive one-on-one help with course-related concepts and assignments. Students sign up by writing their departmental logins on a whiteboard that displays a running list of students waiting in line for help on that course. They are seen by a TA in the order in which their names were listed on the whiteboard. To know the status of the queue, students need to come to the room and check the whiteboard.

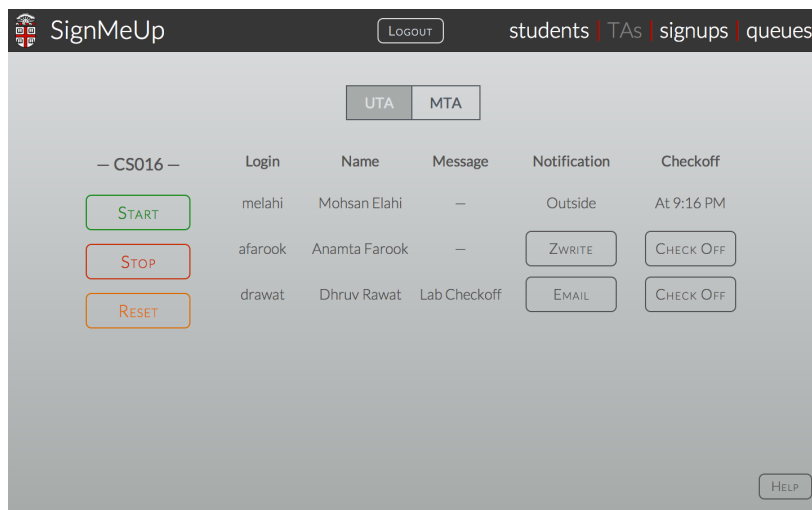
This system works excellently for courses with a small number of students. However, as the number of students in a course increases so do the problems associated with this method of operating TA hours. For students taking high enrollment courses like CSCI0150 and CSCI0170, lines can get really long — about 30-40 students can be on the list at any given time. It is in situations like these that the current system fails — students don't know how long it is going to take for the TA to help them, they run out of vertical space on the whiteboard, handwriting is often illegible, and TAs waste a significant amount of time contacting students.



Every course has its own course card on SignMeUp's signups page.

SignMeUp is currently being tested at TA hours for CSCI0320. Responses from students and TAs have thus far been positive. It will be launched to other courses in Fall'14.

This is where SignMeUp comes in. It replaces the old system with an online version that allows students to sign up for TA hours by visiting <https://signmeup.cs.brown.edu/>. With SignMeUp, students can view the queue for hours online and even be notified via email or text when it is their turn at hours; they no longer have to keep coming back to the room where hours are held for this information. That means if you are a student waiting for TA hours, you can invest the time you would have spent waiting doing more productive things. TAs also benefit from SignMeUp. They are given more information about students who sign up for hours. They can use this to have more personal, higher quality interaction with students.



TAs are given access to a console to hold hours, configure course policies, and manage other system settings.