



# Self Attendance: A Moderate Answer to the Absence Tracking Nightmare

If you have an idea about what the web could do for your teaching or for your students, you will find somebody somewhere who has the skills to do it. Therefore, don't limit yourself by believing in the myth that says computers are for geeks.

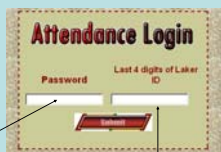
## Objectives

- To facilitate effective roll taking by making the process more fun and less time consuming for myself as well as for my students .
- Encourage Faculty to take advantage as much as possible of Web Technologies to better manage their classes and keep more accurate and usable student records.

## BACKGROUND

In order to help my colleagues keep up with taking roll without the burden of doing it themselves, I have developed a very simple ASP application that allows students to take their own attendance. That information is retrievable at any given time by the faculty especially during no-show reporting. The application is easy to use and does not require any Web skills. The documented application is available as a zip file on my web site at <http://cims.clayton.edu/jmedastin/attendance.zip>

### Instructors' view of the Self-Attendance application



Faculty's stored password

Student unique ID, different for faculty

### The faculty's participation: one click to generate class password

The password can be cleared by pressing the "Clear Password" button



## The Class Password

Instructor generates class password.

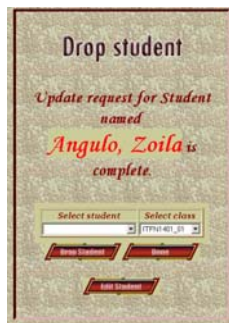
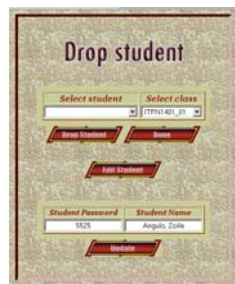
- This is a very quick process. By clicking the "Get Password" button, the instructor generates a random password which is temporarily saved into the database. The password can be cleared as quickly as it was created when the class is over.



### What else can we do here?

The above window gives instructors access to:

- Attendance reports
- Absence reports
- No-Show reports
- Drop/Edit/Add student page
- Calculate their final grades
- Single Student attendance records
- Dated reports



## Student view

Students can

- Login
- Select their class
- Record their own Attendance
- Get a confirmation message



Students cannot

- Sign in for a friend
- Sign in from home
- Sign in for multiple classes



## CONCLUSION

This is only the first step of an enjoyable journey toward achieving hassle-free student roll taking for every class, every day. It's interesting to note that this program will only work in institutions that have a Laptop policy in place whereas every student is required to bring a computer to class. In addition, this app is in its early stage and does not yet support an entire College as one entity. However, faculty and student alike love it! It's encouraging to see how my students would not let me forget about generating the attendance password so that they may receive a customized greeting with their own name.

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