Virtualizing Office Hours in CS 50
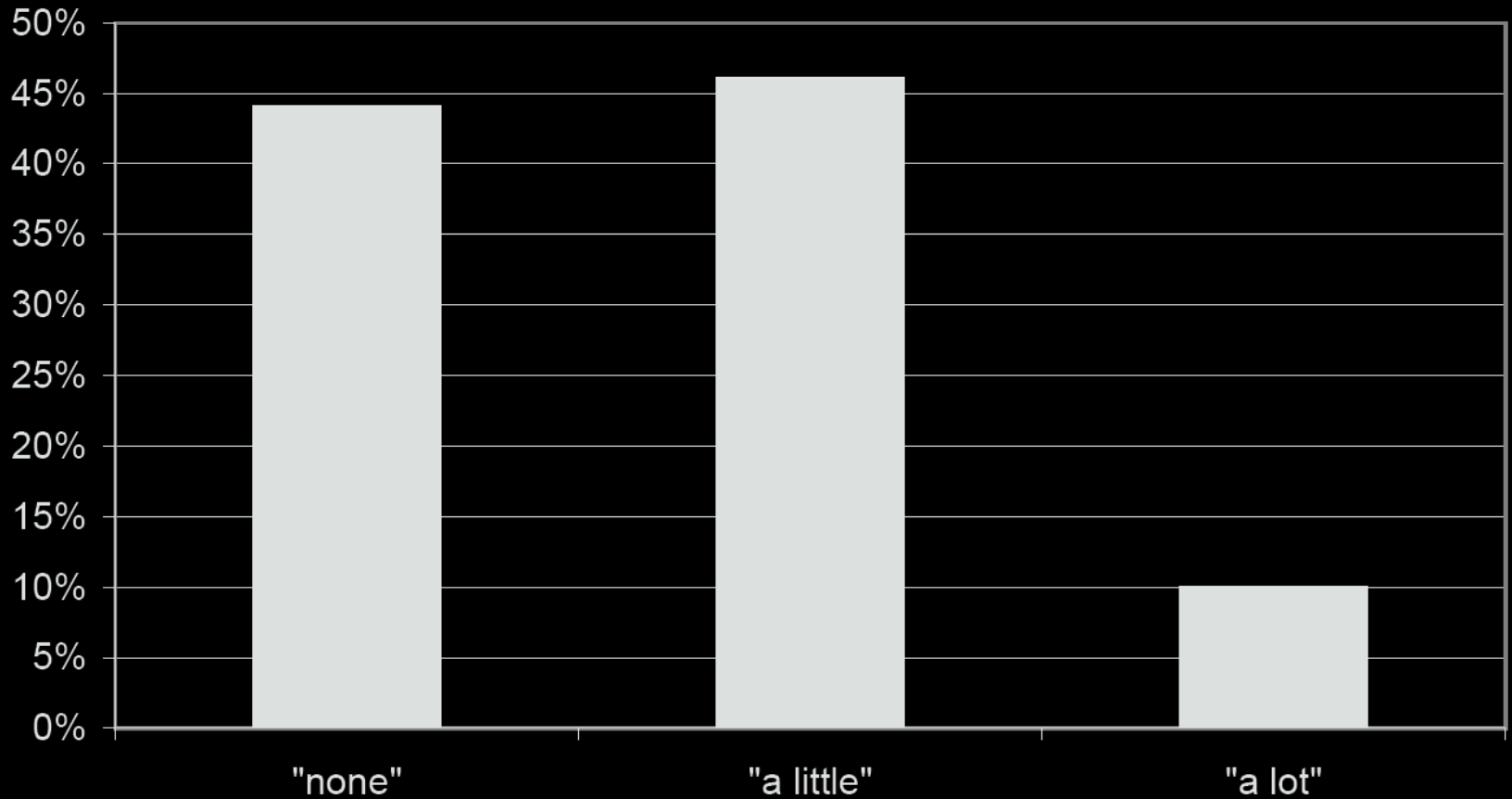
David J. Malan
Harvard University
malan@post.harvard.edu

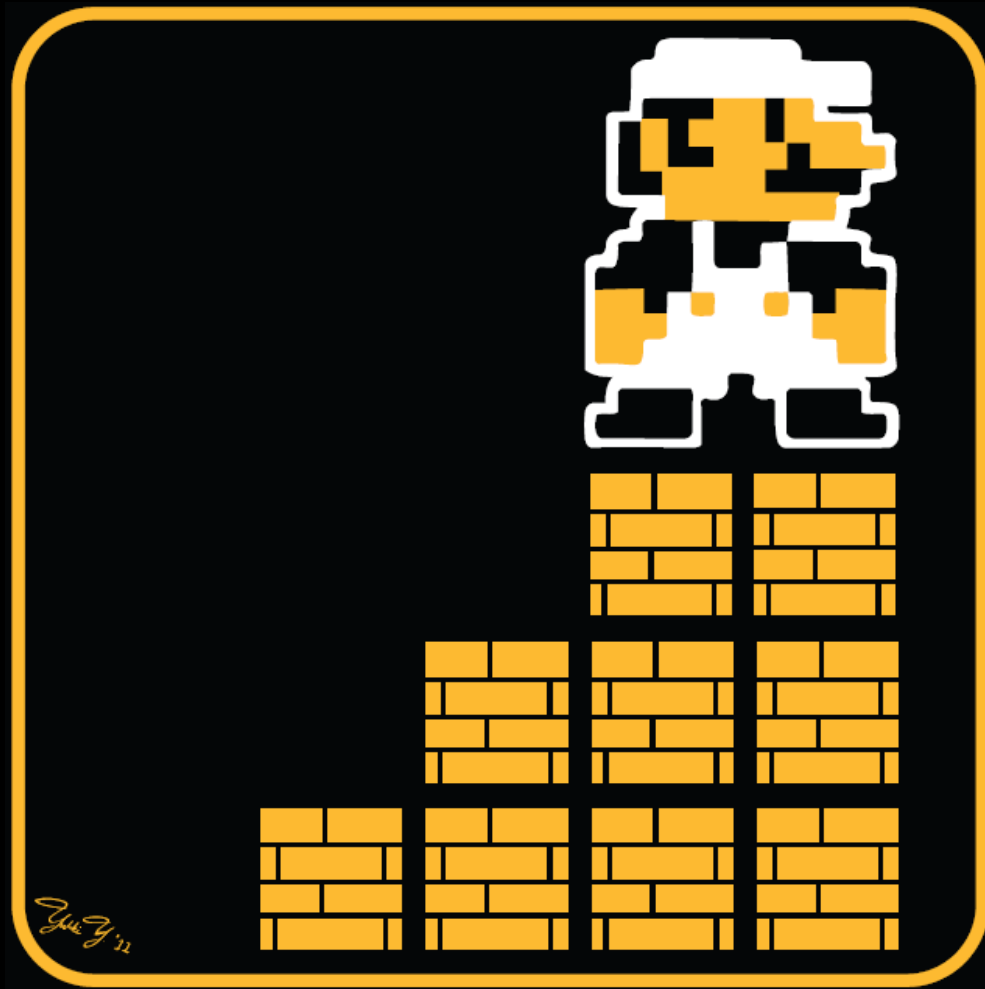**www.cs50.net**

This is CS 50.

Prior Experience

O, hai!

0: Scratch

1:C
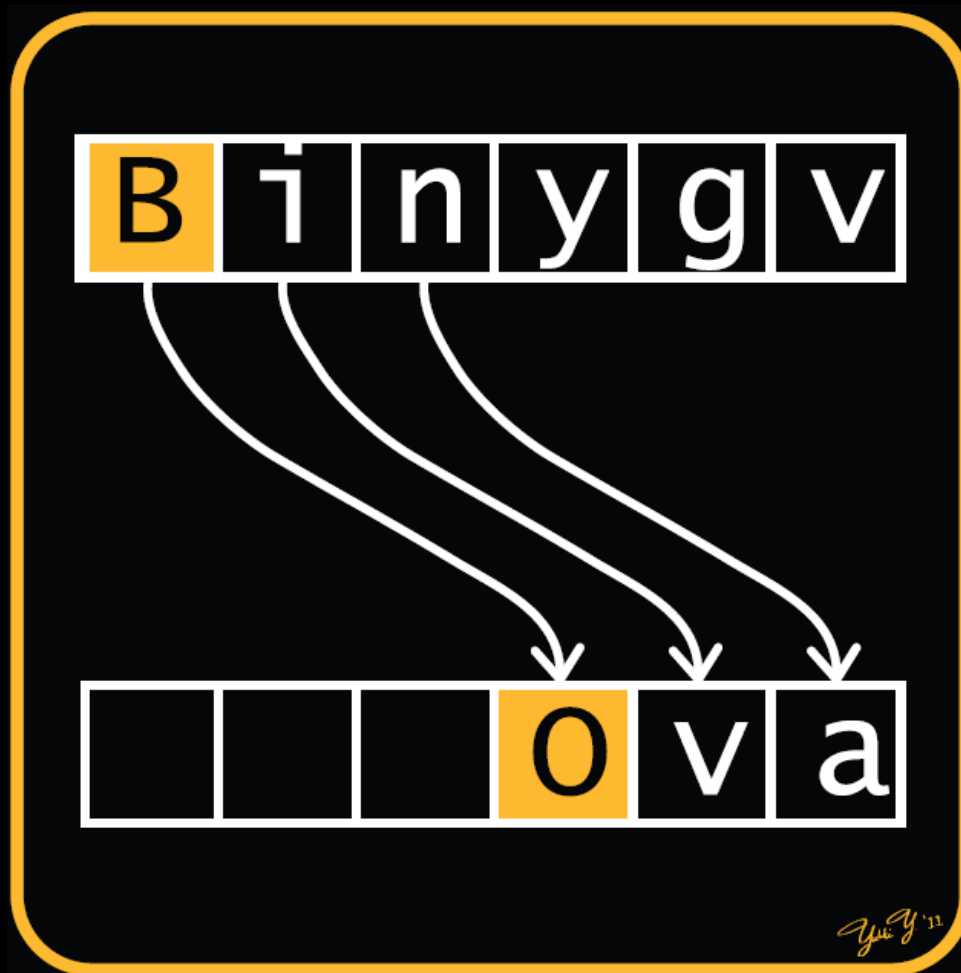
2: Crypto

3: Game of Fifteen

数独

8			4		6			7
						4		
	1					6	5	
5		9		3		7	8	
				7				
	4	8		2		1		3
	5	2					9	
		1						
3			9		2			5

4: Sudoku

im in ur crime scenz

5: Forensics

Teh Computer Sci-
ence 50 learnz you
about intertubes in
teh cloudz. David J.
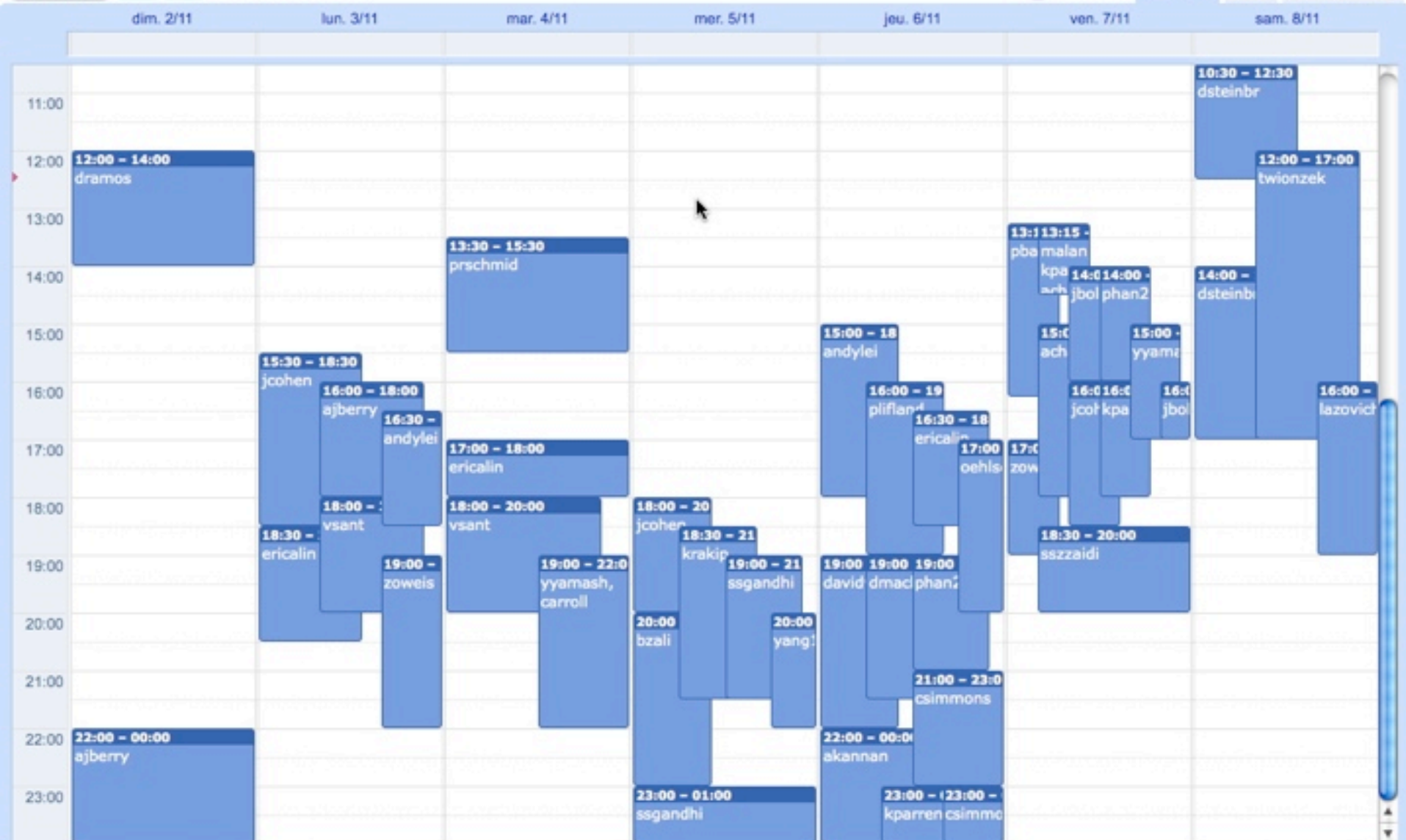Malan will pwn u
ftw so watch out!

6: Mispellings

8: Mashup

http://www.google.com/calendar/embed?pvttk=931aa3ef8aed997e54476226f84(▼   Google

Disable ▼ | Cookies ▼ | CSS ▼ | Forms ▼ | Images ▼ | Information ▼ | Miscellaneous ▼ | Outline ▼ | Resize ▼ | Tools ▼ | View Source ▼ | Options ▼

Aujourd'hui ◀ ▶   2 – 8 nov. 2008 ▼   Imprimer Semaine Mois Mon planning

dim. 2/11	lun. 3/11	mar. 4/11	mer. 5/11	jeu. 6/11	ven. 7/11	sam. 8/11

11:00

10:30 – 12:30 dsteinbr

12:00 12:00 – 14:00 dramos

12:00 – 17:00 twionzek

13:00

13:30 – 15:30 prschmid

13:1 13:15 – pba malan kpa ach

14:00

14:0 14:00 jbol phan2

14:00 – dsteinb

15:00

15:00 – 18 andylei

15:0 ach

15:00 – yyama

15:30 – 18:30 jcohen

16:00 16:00 – 18:00 ajberry

16:00 – 19 plifland

16:0 16:0 jcol kpa

16:0 jbol

16:00 – lazovich

16:30 – andylei

16:30 – 18 ericalin

17:00 17:00 – 18:00 ericalin

17:00 oehls

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18:00 18:30 ericalin 18:00 – vsant 18:00 – 20:00 vsant 18:00 – 20 jcohen

18:30 – 20:00 sszzaidi

19:00 19:00 – zoweis 19:00 – 22:0 yyamash, carroll 18:30 – 21 krakip 19:00 – 21 ssgandhi 19:00 19:00 19:00 david dmacl phan2

20:00 20:00 bzali 20:00 yang!

21:00 21:00 – 23:0 csimmons

22:00 22:00 – 00:00 ajberry 22:00 – 00:0 akannan

23:00 23:00 – 01:00 ssgandhi 23:00 – 23:00 – kparren csimmo

Événements affichés dans le fuseau horaire : Est

Google Agenda

Done
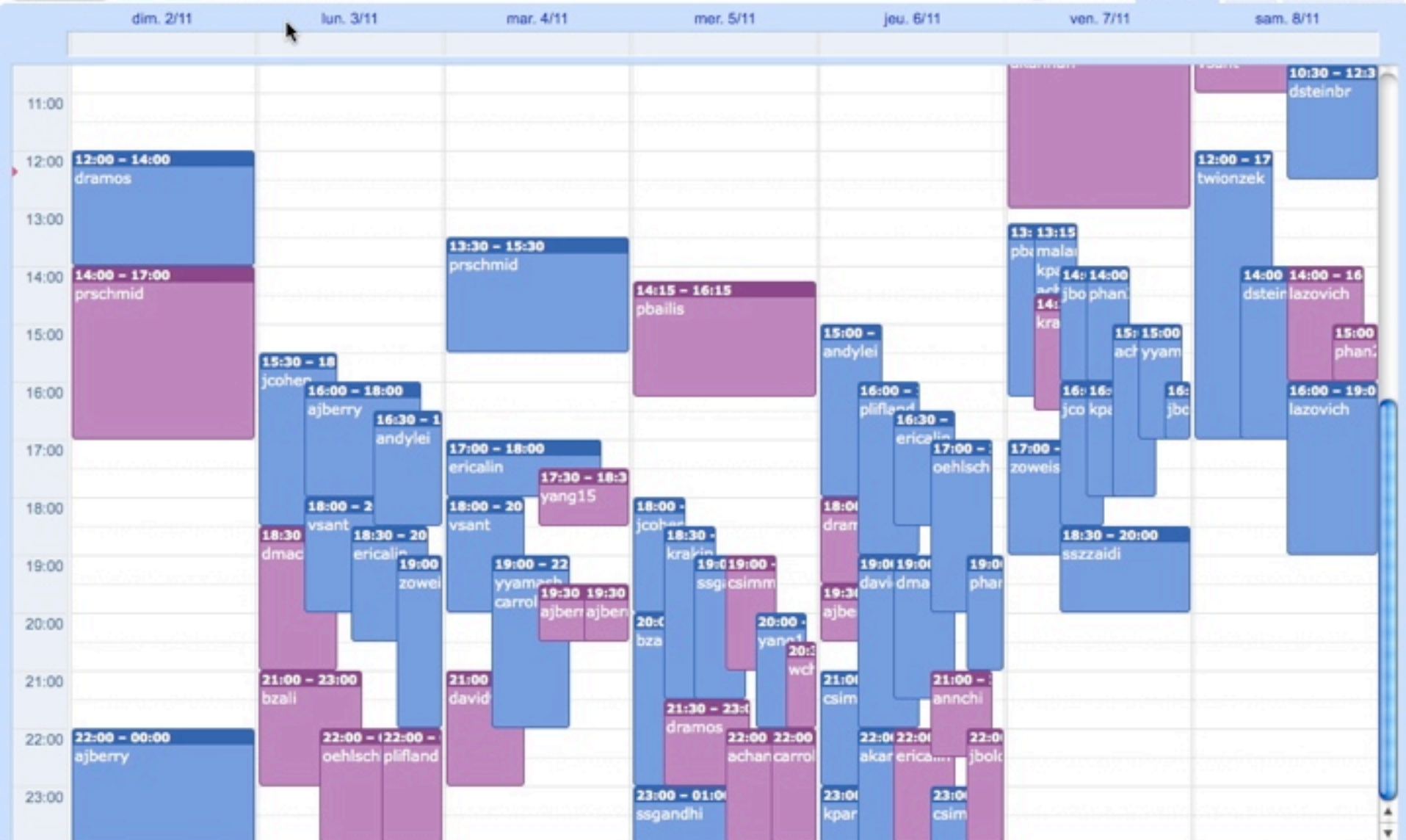
Implementations

- Acrobat Connect Pro
- Blackboard
- Dimdim
- Elluminate Live!
- Saba Centra
- WebEx
- Wimba Pronto
- WiZiQ

TFs' OHs

Disable | Cookies | CSS | Forms | Images | Information | Miscellaneous | Outline | Resize | Tools | View Source | Options

Aujourd'hui ◀ ▶ 2 – 8 nov. 2008 ▾   Imprimer | Semaine | Mois | Mon planning

| dim. 2/11 | lun. 3/11 | mar. 4/11 | mer. 5/11 | jeu. 6/11 | ven. 7/11 | sam. 8/11 |

11:00

10:30 – 12:3 dsteinbr

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12:00 – 14:00 dramos
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14:00 – 17:00 prschmid
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15:30 – 18 jcoher
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18:30 – 20 ericalin
19:00 zowei
18:00 – 20 vsant
18:00 jcoher
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19:00
19:00 – 22 yyamach carrol
17:30 – 18:3 yang15
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19:0 19:0 ssg csimm
19:0 ajbe
19:0 davi dma
19:0 phar

20:00
22:00 – 00:00 ajberry
20:0 bza
20:00 – yanc
20:: wcr

21:00
21:00 – 23:00 bzali
21:00 david
21:00 csim
21:00 – annchi
21:30 – 23: dramos

22:00
22:00 – 22:00 – oehlsch plifland
22:00 achan carrol
22:0 22:0 akar erica…
22:0 jbol

23:00
23:00 – 01:0 ssgandhi
23:0 kpar
23:0 csim

Done

File   Session   View   Tools   Window   Help

Participants

							Participants	
							David J. Malan (Mod...)	
1							Jane Harvard (Me)	
2							John Harvard	

2 of 3
Hands Raised

Chat

Show   All

Send   to   This Room

Audio

Talk

Whiteboard - Main Room

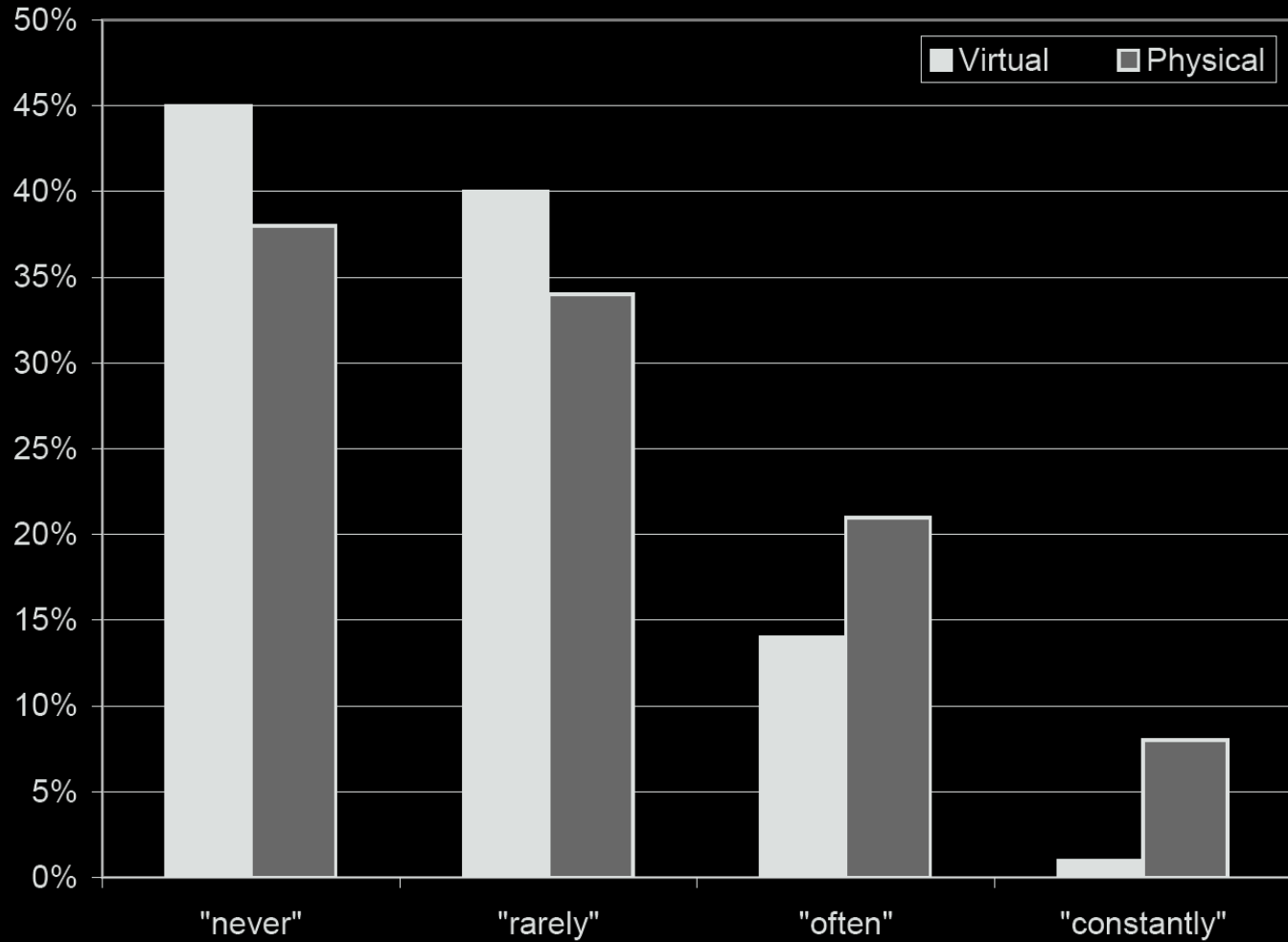welcome to the Virtual Terminal Room

☑ Follow Moderator

cs50 :: introductiontocomputerscience **I**

harvardcollege

welcome to the
Virtual Terminal Room

It was
Prof. Plum
in the conservatory
with the lead pipe!
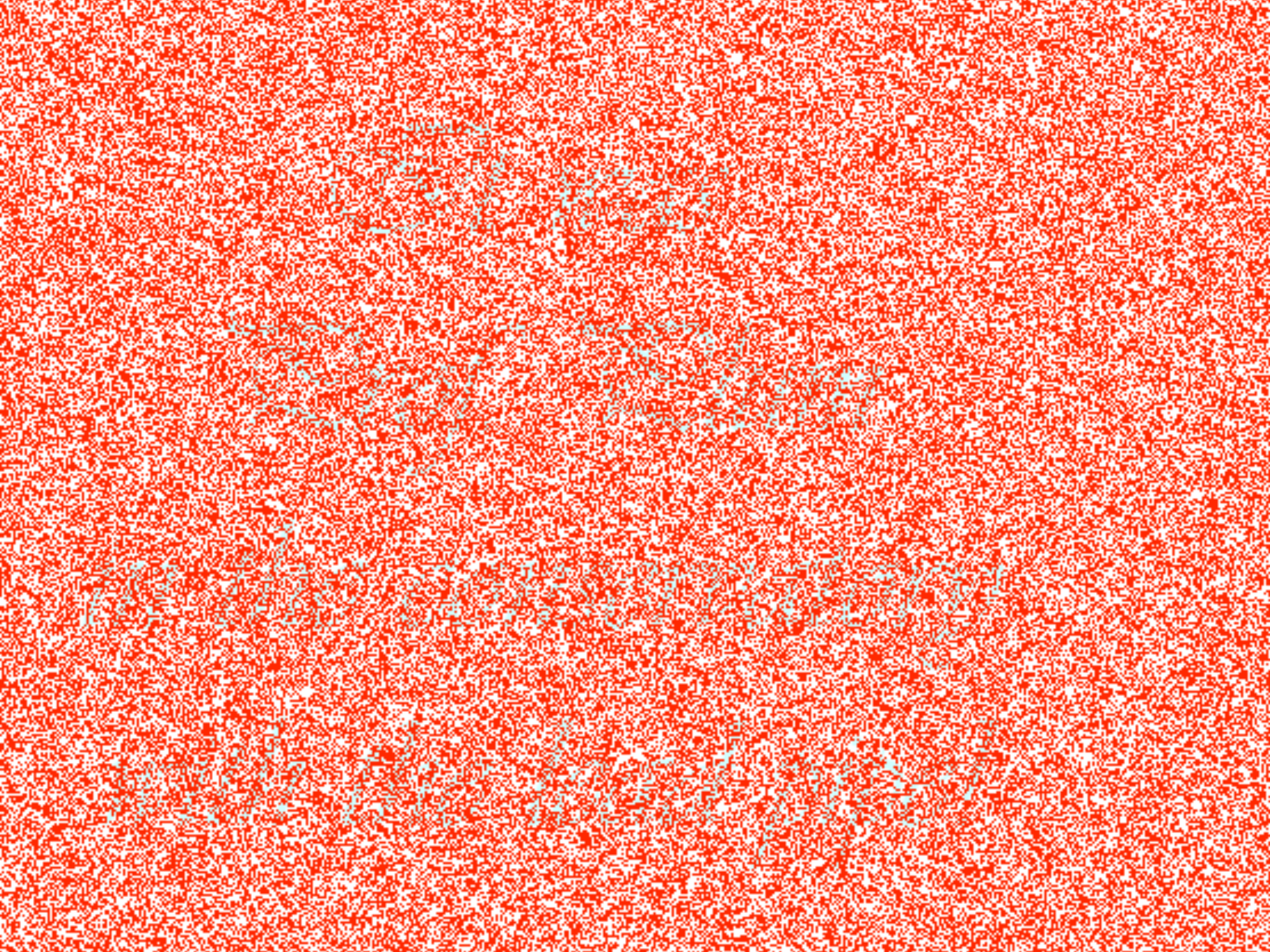
Attendance

Comments (+)

- "I think they're a great idea. Help is just as good, and I find that I think much better when I'm not in the stress of physical office hours."
- "Virtual office hours are definitely more convenient. And while I'm waiting to be helped, I can just keep coding."
- ". . . they're great for shorter questions."

Theory != Reality

- "I think it's a really cool idea, I just haven't gotten around to trying it out."
- "A neat idea. Haven't used it though."

Comments (–)

- "They are not as effective as the physical ones. The [TFs] can't really give their full attention to the student."
- "They are helpful for small questions, but not for understanding larger concepts."
- "I really like the idea. I'm just more comfortable with someone physically there."
- ". . . nothing beats physical office hours."
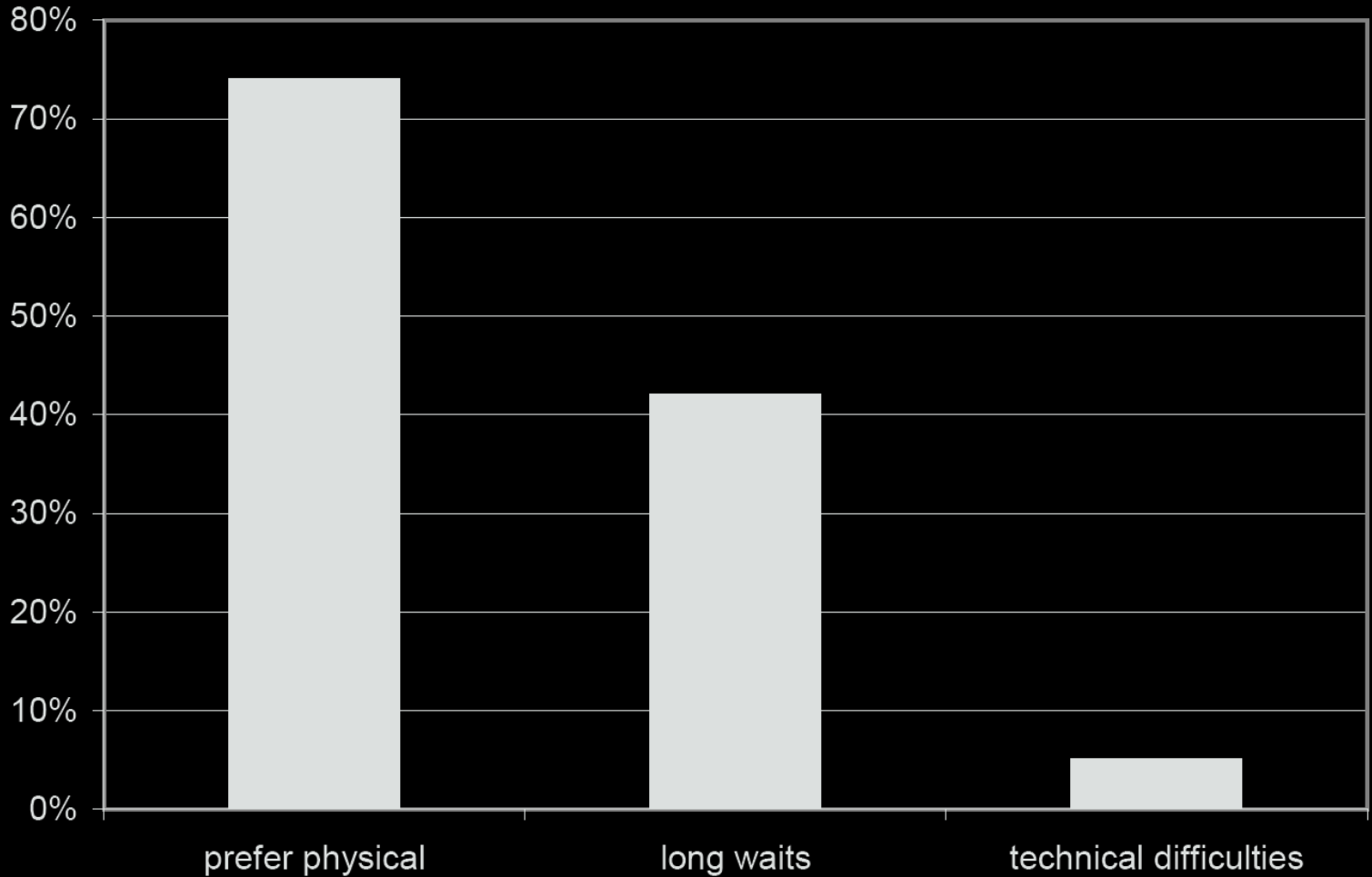
Problems

- **Latency**
- **Moderators can't be in multiple breakout rooms.**
- **"When a [TF] greets you, it's easy to miss."**

Conclusions

- A net positive.
- Not some revolutionary new technology but, rather, another resource (imperfect but still useful) that we now make available to students.
- Perhaps best suited for courses that are already keyboard-based.
- Audience was self-selecting: those who liked opted in, those who didn't opted out.

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