

Addendum to Notes on using WebAssign for Math 20C
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June 5, 2019

This is an addendum to my April 2018 “Notes on using WebAssign for Math 20C.” Most of that information is still applicable, but here are some minor updates.

WebAssign announced they will be redesigning the interface soon, and additionally, UCSD is transitioning from TritonEd (rebranded Blackboard) to Canvas. So at this point, I am just posting incremental changes rather than updating the whole document.

Student accounts: The accounts and login procedure have changed each year, so the instructions need to be reviewed/updated each time.

- Students now need a “Cengage” account, linked to the account created via TritonEd.
- The student account usernames show to the instructor as username::app-173@ucsd, but may appear entirely differently to the students.
- Some students again reported problems, where they would log in but not see the class. In some of those cases, I saw two entries for them in the WebAssign roster, one matching the TritonEd-created account, and another listed differently. Have the student send a screenshot so you can see how the account name, school, etc. appears to them in the upper right corner. Sometimes clearing cookies was enough to fix it. Other times, the student and/or I had to contact WebAssign to fix it. The correct account is the one that shows to the instructor as username::app-173@ucsd, even if it does not show to the student that way.

TritonEd roster syncing:

- **Adds early in the quarter:** TritonEd no longer automatically syncs the rosters each day. So each day during at least the first two weeks of class (while adds are still allowed), wait until after 9am (TritonEd’s roster is usually updated between 7-9am). Then in TritonEd, go to the screen for WebAssign, and push the button to sync the roster.
- **Drops later in the quarter:** When students drop the class, you may want to drop them on WebAssign to make it easier to review grades, or so dropped students don’t see assignments after they drop. However, if you need to resync the TritonEd roster to WebAssign (e.g., for a late add), beware that students you dropped on WebAssign will be re-enrolled there. The TritonEd roster includes dropped students (with an enrollment status of dropped), but the enrollment status is not conveyed to WebAssign. To work around this:
 - On WebAssign, go to the list of Dropped Students, and make a screenshot or printout. You also may want to reconcile this list with any new dropped students on the TritonEd roster.
 - On TritonEd, push the button to sync the roster.
 - On WebAssign, manually drop the students again.

WebAssign Homework Template settings:

- See the “**WebAssign homework template**” section in the previous report. Here are a few changes/additions to those settings.
- **Display available hints, tutorials, and eBook links:** use “**Show Before Due Date - after 3 submissions.**”
- **Practice Another Version:** use “**Show Before Due Date - after 3 submissions.**”
But Adam has suggested disabling it altogether, since the feature can be abused.
- **Scoring Answers:** use “**Question Parts: Use student’s best score for each question part**” rather than the default “**Last: Use student’s last answer.**”
 - Some students using touchscreens, touchpads, etc. (many different brands and models) reported their answers unexpectedly changing.
 - As you scroll on these devices by swiping gestures, you may touch buttons/links and it can be misinterpreted as clicking on them. This can result in unintentionally entering an answer to a problem or changing an answer to a problem already submitted.
 - This is particularly bad when scrolling by multiple choice problems with 3D interactive graphs.
 - I had numerous reports of this and had to change the settings, and regrade the assignments that originally used the default setting.
 - I reported it to WebAssign and they have their reasons for this, so it will apparently not be fixed unless there is a major redesign.

Issues with large rosters / Regrading:

- My previous report noted issues with large rosters. Currently, reviewing rosters, grades, Class Insights, etc. for large rosters (300-400 students) works fine. However, regrading is still a problem.
- Regrading did not work properly on Safari. It stalled without completing.
- In Chrome, regrading took approximately 40-60 minutes for the whole class per homework assignment, depending on the number of problems involved. Unfortunately, you cannot leave it running on Chrome in a background window while doing something else on your computer; the WebAssign window in Chrome doing the regrading has to be in-focus. Switching to another window, whether in Chrome or another program, will cause it to stall or prevent it from completing.

Textbook: My previous report noted that many students have not yet seen Matrix Multiplication, since Math 18 is not a prerequisite, so I’ve been covering that with slides. It turns out that Matrix Multiplication is covered in the book in Chapter 1.5, but that section is not listed on the department-wide Math 20C syllabus.