Use of webboard in two programming courses

- **First year bachelor course (5 ETCS)**
  - 450 participants
  - CS, IT, MATH, etc.
  - Traditional course
    - 4 hours of lectures per week
    - 4 hours of labs per week (TØ)
    - Study café 6 hours per week
  - 15 mandatory assignments
  - Most assignments made in groups of 2 persons

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> **Webboard was nice to have**
> - **Limited number of postings**
> - **Used by a limited number of students**
> - **Easy to stablish and run**
> - **Valuable tool for communication between me and the 15 instructors**

- **Course for high-school teachers (10 ECTS)**
  - Supplementary education (EVU)
  - 30 participants distributed all over DK
  - 8 full day seminars
  - Between seminars all help was provided via the webboard
  - More than 20 mandatory assignments
  - Assignments made in groups of 1-2 persons

> **Webboard was essential**
> - **Huge number of postings**
> - **Used by nearly all students**
> - **Only way to get help between the seminars**

Webboard in bachelor course

Only 160 postings (few participants)
- **20 general announcements**
- **70 questions + answers**
- **Average of far less than one question per student**

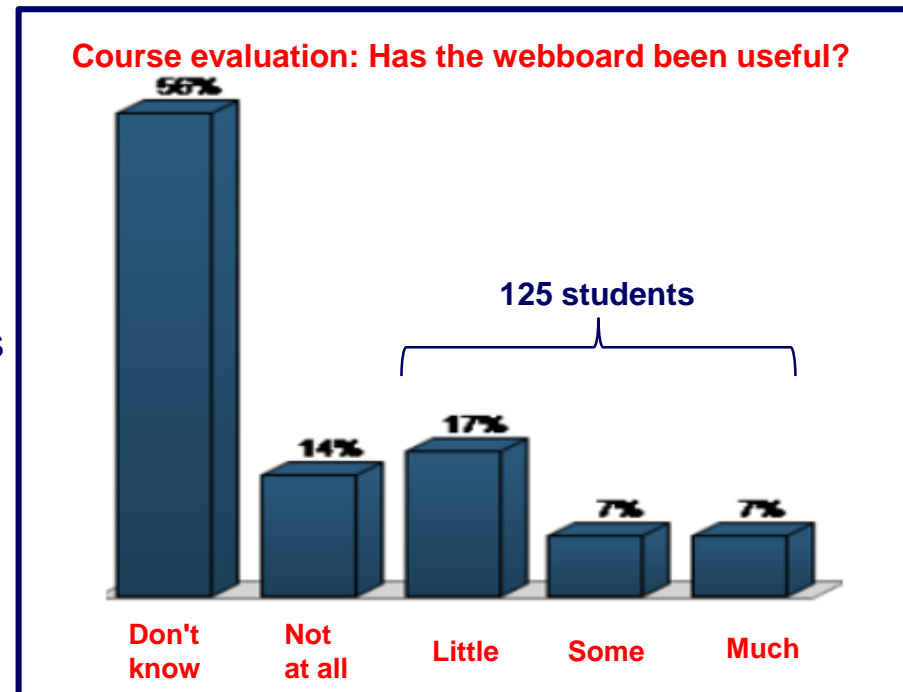| Forum	Beskrivelse	Indlæg i alt	Ulæste indlæg	Deltagere i alt
Generelt	Alt hvad der relaterer sig til kurset, og ikke er dækket af et andet forum.	6	0	4
Uge 1 (35)	Alt hvad der relaterer sig til første uge af kurset.	9	0	8
Uge 2 (36)	Alt hvad der relaterer sig til anden uge af kurset.	39	0	17
Uge 3 (37)	Alt hvad der relaterer sig til tredje uge af kurset.	11	0	9
Uge 4 (38)	Alt hvad der relaterer sig til fjerde uge af kurset.	20	0	11
Uge 5 (39)	Alt hvad der relaterer sig til femte uge af kurset.	8	0	6
Uge 6 (40)	Alt hvad der relaterer sig til sjette uge af kurset.	15	0	7
Uge 7 (41)	Alt hvad der relaterer sig til syvende uge af kurset.	28	0	11
Eksamen	Alt hvad der relaterer sig til eksamen på kurset.	24	0	8
Diskussioner udenfor pensum	Giver vist sig selv.	0	0	0
Staff Discussion Dette forum er i øjeblikket ikke tilgængeligt.		253	0	16

Forum for each week

Special closed forum for teacher and 15 instructors

2

Limited use in the bachelor course

- **Students had many other ways to get help**
  - 4 hours of labs (TØ) per week
  - 6 hours in the study café per week
  - They worked in pairs (groups of 2 persons)
  - Study group (with 4 persons)

- **Webboard was still useful**
  - Used by some students to get help
  - Postings were read (and used) by much more students
  - Also used for general announcements to the students
  - Heavily used for communication with the 15 instructors on the course

Course evaluation: Has the webboard been useful?

125 students

| Don't know | Not at all | Little | Some | Much |
| 56% | 14% | 17% | 7% | 7% |

Webboard for high-school teachers

- **Completely different picture**
  - In the course the webboard was used extensively

Nearly 1,000 postings
- **Many general announcements**
- **450 questions + answers**
- **Average of 15 questions per student**

Forum for each work period

Forum	Beskrivelse	Indlæg i alt	Ulæste indlæg	Deltage
Uge 1-3	Alt om uge 1-3	229	0	18
Uge 4-7	Alt om uge 4-7	246	0	21
Uge 9-11	Alt om uge 9-11	246	0	22
Uge 12-15	Alt om uge 12-15	201	0	22
Mundtlig eksamen	Alt om mundtlig eksamen	24	0	12
Alt andet	Alt andet	31	0	14
Staff Discussion Dette forum er i øjeblikket ikke tilgængeligt.	Internt for underviser og instruktorer	46	0	3

Special closed forum for teacher and 4 instructors

4

Typical postings from a forum

19-04-17 23:43	for banalt ikk sandt	Heidi Degnemark	Udgivet	0	2
19-04-17 21:25	tests generelt - lidt mere gennemgang/forklaring?	Heidi Degnemark	Udgivet	0	4
18-04-17 09:50	test for arrive i opgave 4	Heidi Skovbak Graversen	Udgivet	0	2
17-04-17 20:01	opgave 1 computerspil	Heidi Degnemark	Udgivet	0	3
17-04-17 20:00	computerspil 2 opgave 4	Heidi Degnemark	Udgivet	0	8
17-04-17 18:59	CG2, opgave 4 - arrive	Mikkel Zeilberger Herold	Udgivet	0	4
17-04-17 16:11	Skal testklasserne dokumenteres?	Mikkel Zeilberger Herold	Udgivet	0	2
16-04-17 22:57	Comp spil 2 - opgave 4 første del	Heidi Degnemark	Udgivet	0	6
15-04-17 22:37	spil 2 opg 3	Heidi Degnemark	Udgivet	0	8
14-04-17 23:15	Computerspil 2 opgave 5	Anne Sofie Haun Eriksen	Udgivet	0	2

Extensive use in the course for HS teachers

- **Only way to get help (from us) in the 2-4 weeks between seminars**
  - We refused to answer questions sent by mail
  - Webboard questions were answered fast and at nearly all hours of the day/evening including weekends (by me and 2 instructors)
  - Answers were used extensively by other students
  - Students also answered and commented each others questions
  - Traffic peek Monday in the late evening (deadline for assignments at midnight)

Course evaluation: Has the webboard been useful?

Don't know	Not at all	Little	Some	Much
4%	12%	20%	36%	28%
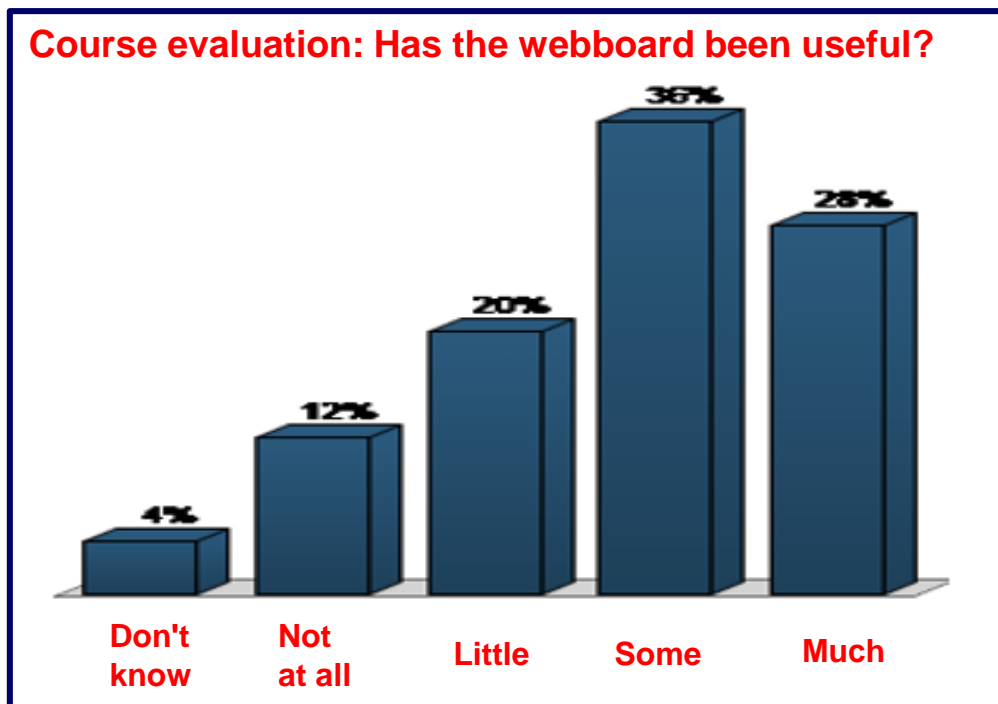
For this course the webboard was essential

Lessons to be learnt (from both courses)

- **Important to teach the students how to use the webboard**
  - Use descriptive titles
  - One problem per thread
  - Precise unambiguous questions

- **Students must be encouraged to use the webboard**
  - Useful to allow anonymous postings

- **Questions must be answered as fast as possible**
  - Preferably within a few minutes (also outside normal working hours)
  - Involve instructors (and other students)
  - At the bachelor course we have a small gift to the instructor who is most active on the webboard

- **Webboard is very easy to establish and run**
  - Setup time is minimal (10-15 minutes)
  - It is useful for some students (number depends on the course)
  - It is extremely useful for communication with the instructors (via a special closed forum)
  - Work of maintaining the webboard is proportional to the use

Questions or comments…..