

DIRECT ACCESS COURSEWARE

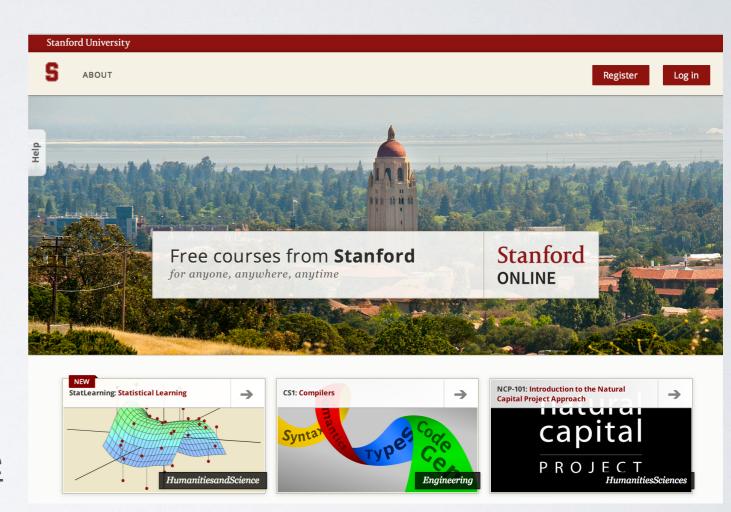
Jason Bau

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STANFORD OPEN EDX

class.stanford.edu

- One of first instances
- One of largest instances
 (415K users, >100 courses)
- ~10 person eng team
- github.com/Stanford-Online

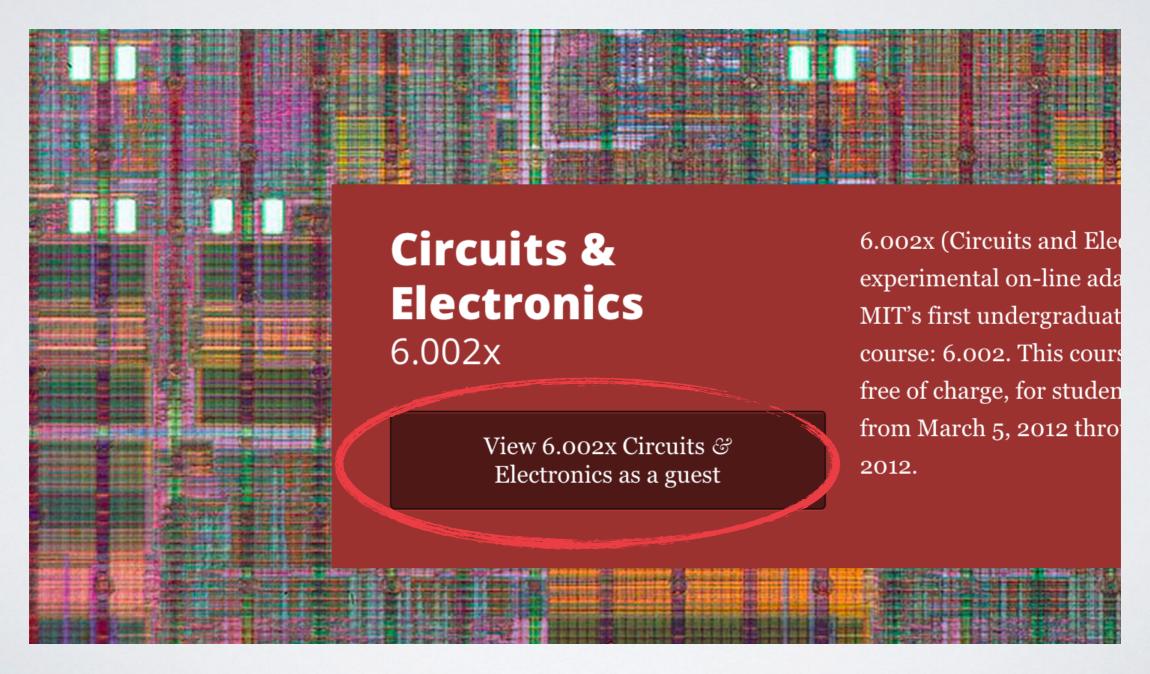


DIRECT ACCESS OUTLINE

- What and why?
- · How?
- Data
- How to do it better

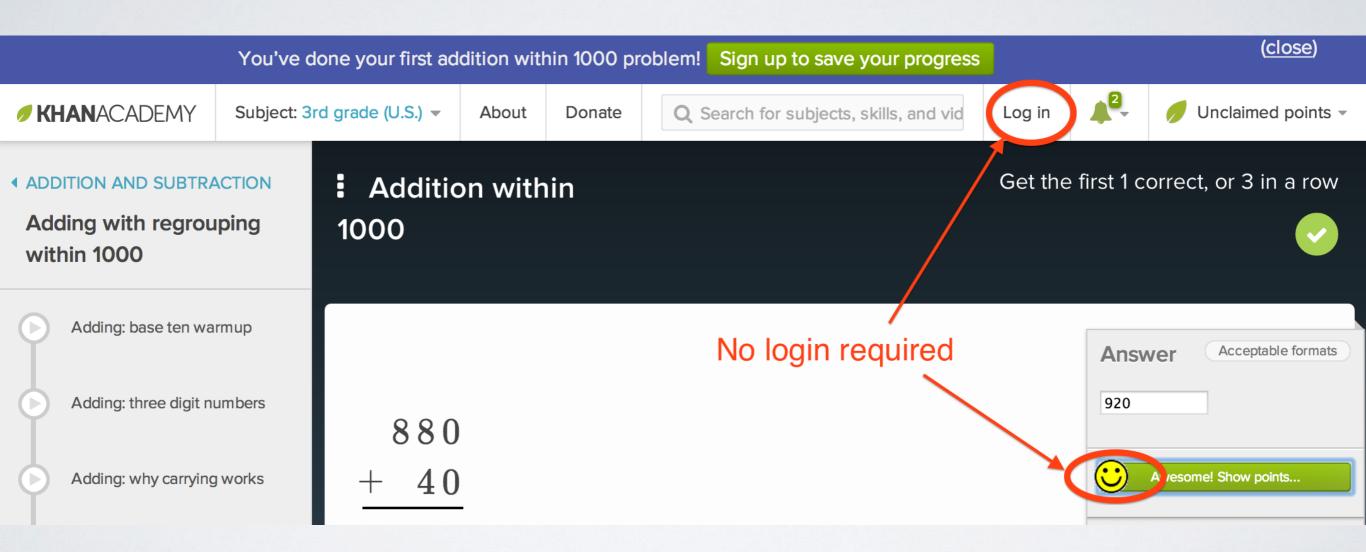
MAKE CONTENT ACCESS EASY!

no need to register



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no need to register



We went without this on Open edX until we got loud pushback

- "We consider open access to our class material a critical part of the equation"
- "Someone who wants to view our course materials shouldn't have to have an edX login"
- "Is there a timeframe for making our content openly and freely available?"
- "... make the material easily available to our colleagues at other schools"

MAKE CONTENT ACCESS EASY!

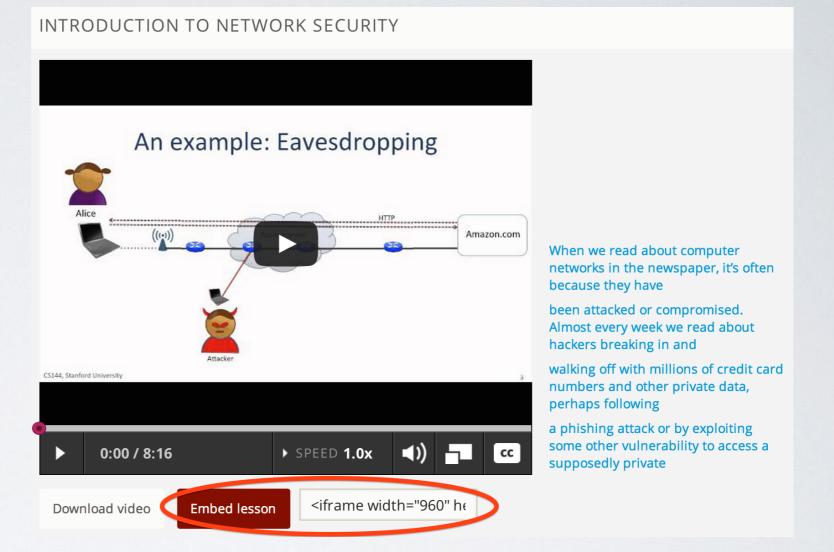
deep linking without login gate / redirect

- Professor: Course syllabus page
- · Professor: Email to colleague: Hey, feel free to use my lesson
- My Examples
 - https://6002x.mitx.mit.edu/courseware/6.002 Spring 2012/
 Week I/Circuit Analysis Toolchest/ (also directly opens!)
 - https://www.khanacademy.org/math/cc-third-grade-math/cc-3rd-add-sub-topic/cc-3rd-adding-carrying/e/addition_4 (directly opens!)

HOPEFUL EXTENSIONS

Embedding

Search crawlers



- · Google "networking class", top result at class.stanford.edu
- · Google "network security lecture video" ...

SO LET'S DOTHIS

simple principle

django distinguishes between User (profile info, row in db) and AnonymousUser (pre-login)

just allow Anonymous User everywhere in the code

probably the right way

EXCEPT...

registered "user" (with identity) is widespread assumption edx-platform and xblocks

LMS Access Control / Authorization

lms/djangoapps/courseware/access.py

Enrollment

common/djangoapps/student/models.py: CourseEnrollment

Just to render course content

```
lms/djangoapps/courseware/module_render.py

def get_module(user, request, ...)
```

STILL MORE "USER" NOTION

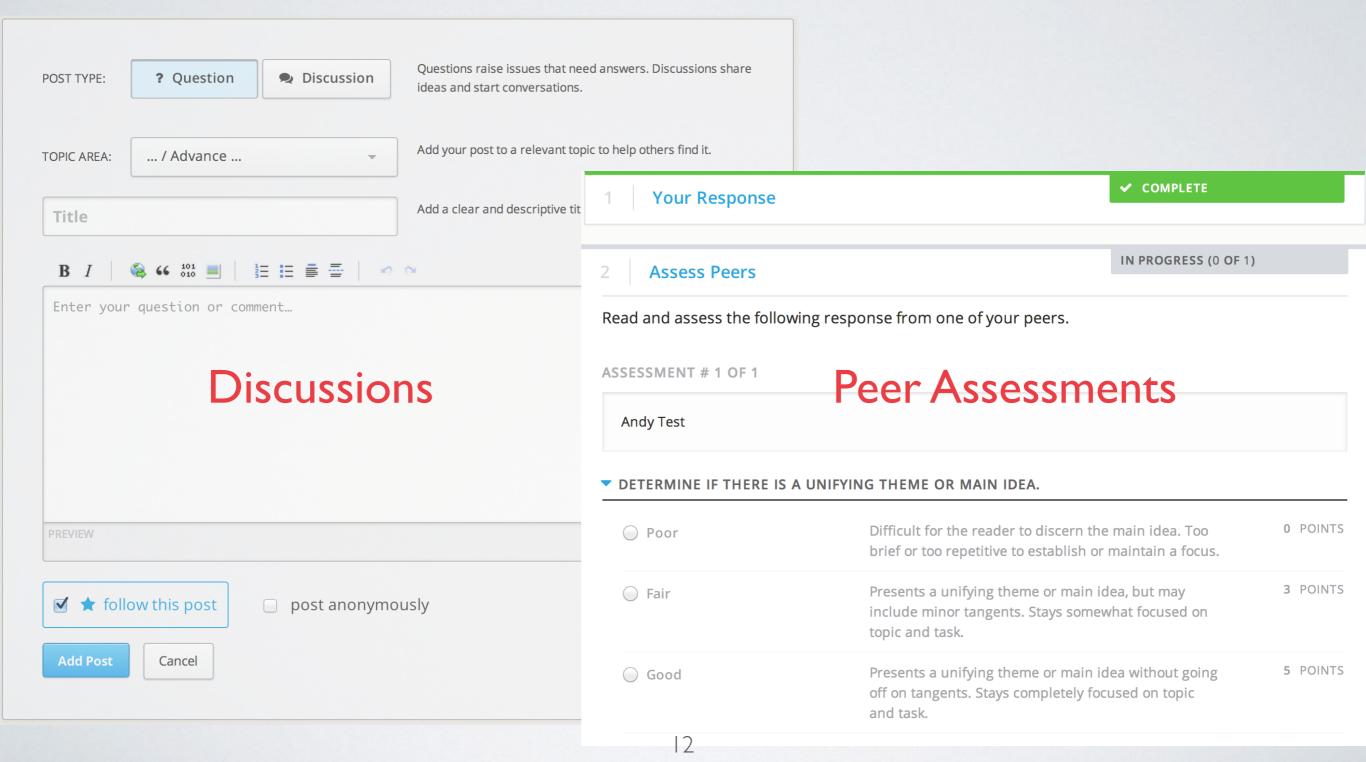
needed for xblocks / xmodules to function is LMS:

xblock scopes:

```
class Scope(ScopeBase):
    user_state = ScopeBase(UserScope.ONE, BlockScope.USAGE, u'user_state')
    preferences = ScopeBase(UserScope.ONE, BlockScope.TYPE, u'preferences')
    user_info = ScopeBase(UserScope.ONE, BlockScope.ALL, u'user_info')
    user_state_summary = ScopeBase(UserScope.ALL, BlockScope.USAGE, ...
```

tracking log emission

SOMETIMES WE WANT REGISTERED USERS



THIS FEATURE NEEDS: Hack

Compatibility:

How to not break all the places that expect User Let's just create dummy Users on demand, no reg required

Policy:

Define what course content to show visitors

Let's just hardcode reasonable defaults

V 0.9

commit 3a4a1e948531716a3e06eca5d94fd140834f264d

Author: Jason Bau <jbau@stanford.edu> Date: Thu Nov 21 01:52:26 2013 -0800

initial commit of sneak peek support for courses

- * some more tests
- * make preview work with shib classes
- * Styled unauth access button and banner.
- renamed "preview" button to "Explore Course" and styled.
- moved banner from main navigation to course navigation.
- moved span tag inside link to make clickable area larger

Conflicts:

common/djangoapps/student/tests/factories.py
common/djangoapps/student/views.py
lms/djangoapps/courseware/tests/test_access.py

commit 1e5d7bd3ae718d2c9d5ec3765 55 66 62 ff fe
Author: Giulio Gratta <giulio Giulio raeta.com>
Date: Tue Dec 00 1127:4, 20, 0800

ac ng u au he t. ted use footer

commit 84f71f9705998db7cc58b414caaa9adcc8c50ee Author: Giulio Gratta <giulio@giuliogratta.com> Date: Mon Jan 6 12:49:53 2014 -0800

Changes to Unauthenticated Access of courses

- Changed wording of footer in courseware
- Added footer to about page referenced to "Explore Course" button to make the course content "Click-Wrapped"

commit e2cc47317de8dfb9659b09a539d544c4efe8b9b0

Author: Jason Bau <jbau@stanford.edu>
Date: Wed Jan 22 09:31:01 2014 -0800

fixes visibility of can load for sneakpeek

commit 3f2c4c73b2aa005a540a7a3e8e8d350e50b66d29

Author: Jason Bau <jbau@stanford.edu> Date: Sun Mar 30 10:41:45 2014 -0700

changes to make sneakpeek work with new tars

commit 232b7304df726ee1a4d5753d9 841 ecet d017

Author: Jason Bau <jbau@shanford.ed.:
Date: Wed Apr 2 17-28:1 2011 -0 0

middleware to all w sne kpeek courses to deeplink

mil 1 e7 acar 7a5167733140292ab6695362ecf59a

Au hor bason au <jbau@stanford.edu> Date: Mon Jun 23 22:34:44 2014 -0700

middle re for M logging out all sneakpeek users

compit of 5f1 a4 75 sef424f646461e966dec6d9cedc79

Mon Jun 23 23:37:56 2014 -0700

Make sneakpeek OpaqueKeys compliant

Conflicts:

common/djangoapps/student/views.py
lms/djangoapps/courseware/views.py

commit 3d08be33a40a4a948e56d3a21bf2c85b1e12b55e

Author: stv <stv@stanford.edu>

Date: Tue Jun 24 18:19:09 2014 -0700

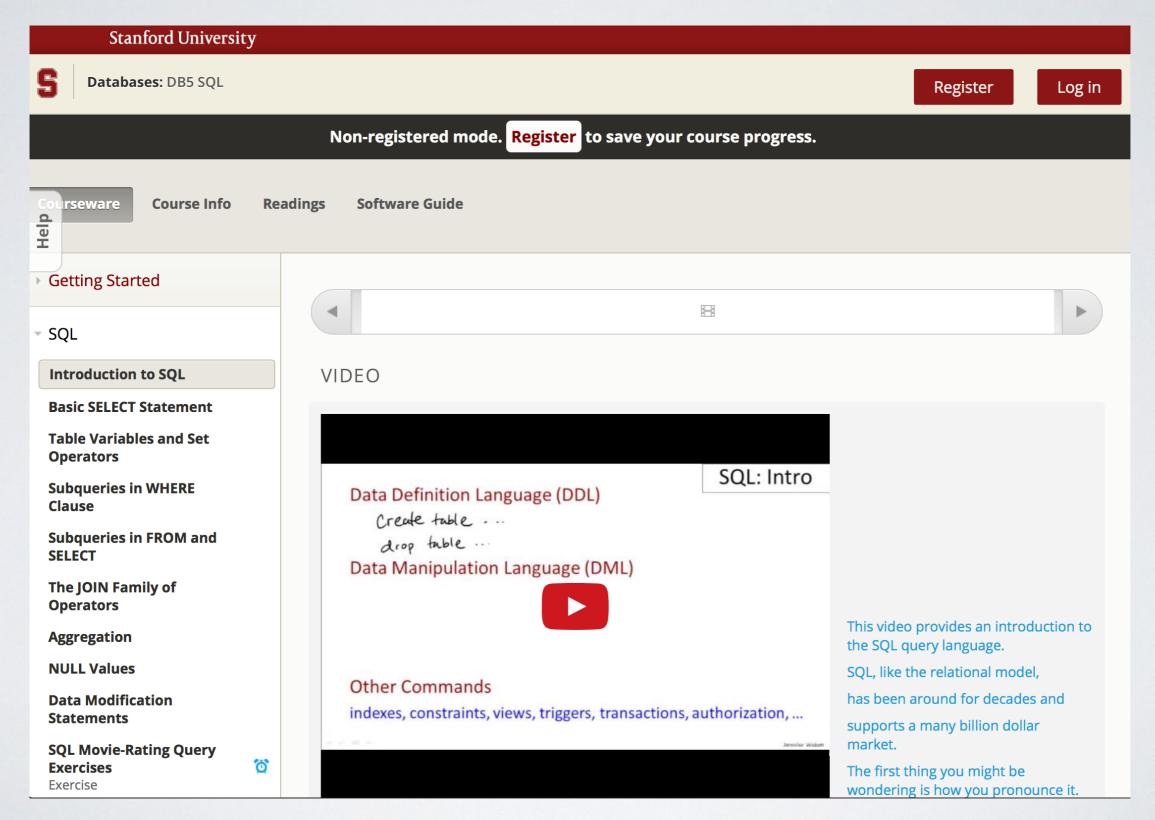
Disable sneakpeek middleware during tests

commit c38f84fb2f0ba91caa25c8ef9523c27f76f03fa3

Author: Jason Bau <jbau@stanford.edu> Date: Mon Jul 7 21:04:11 2014 -0400

Fix broken import in deeplink middleware app

SCREENSHOT



COMPATIBILITY

non-registered User (not Anonymous User) it's still a User, so it works everywhere User does

```
class UserProfile (models. Model):
    # New field to keep track of direct access users
   nonregistered = models.BooleanField(default=False)
    # Use in place of user.is authenticated()
    @classmethod
    def has registered(cls, user):
        return (hasattr(user, 'profile') and
                not user.profile.nonregistered)
    @classmethod
    def create nonregistered user (cls):
        anon username = cls.get anon username() # anon 30 random chars
        anon email = "{}+{}@{}".format(anon username, "example.com")
        anon user = User(username=anon username, email=anon email)
        anon user.save()
        profile = UserProfile(user=anon user, nonregistered=True).save()
        return anon user
```

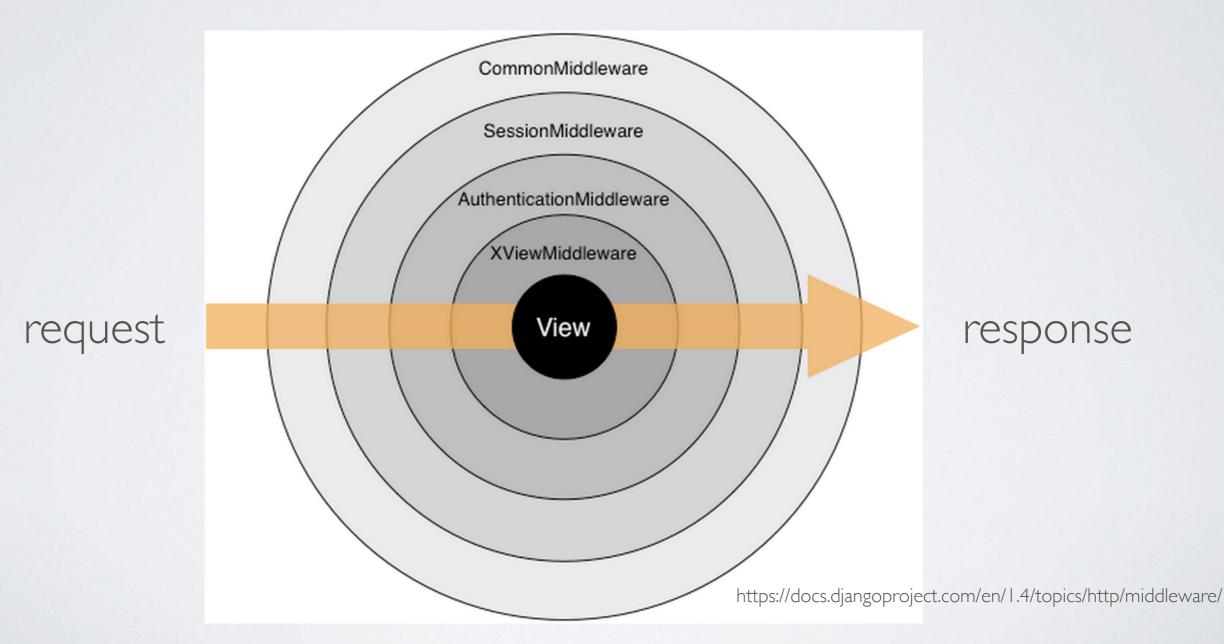
POLICY — COURSES

courses choose whether to offer direct access via db setting — direct course id match to URL

Django administration
Home > Courseware > Course preferences
Select course preference to change
Action: Go 0 of 21 selected
Course preference
☐ Education/OpenKnowledge/Fall2014 : allow_nonregistered_access : true
□ SampleUniversity/102/Fall2013 : allow_nonregistered_access : true
DB/Recursion/SelfPaced : allow_nonregistered_access : true
□ DB/OLAP/SelfPaced : allow_nonregistered_access : true
□ DB/Views/SelfPaced : allow_nonregistered_access : true
■ DB/Constraints/SelfPaced : allow_nonregistered_access : true
□ DB/Indexes/SelfPaced : allow_nonregistered_access : true
■ DB/UML/SelfPaced : allow_nonregistered_access : true

ON-DEMAND USER CREATION

django middleware runs for every HTTP request



ON-DEMAND USER CREATION

on requests to URLs "within" a direct access course, creates user, logs in (for I week), enrolls in course

```
class DirectAccessDeepLinkMiddleware(object):
    def process_request(self, request):
        """

        Minimize user creation. Make one only if:
        1. request is a GET
        2. request is NOT to a mechanical/api endpoint URL
        3. request.user is AnonymousUser
        4. request URL has a course context
        5. request's course allows direct access
        6. request's course's enrollment period is open
        Does the following:
```

1. Registers an anonymous user

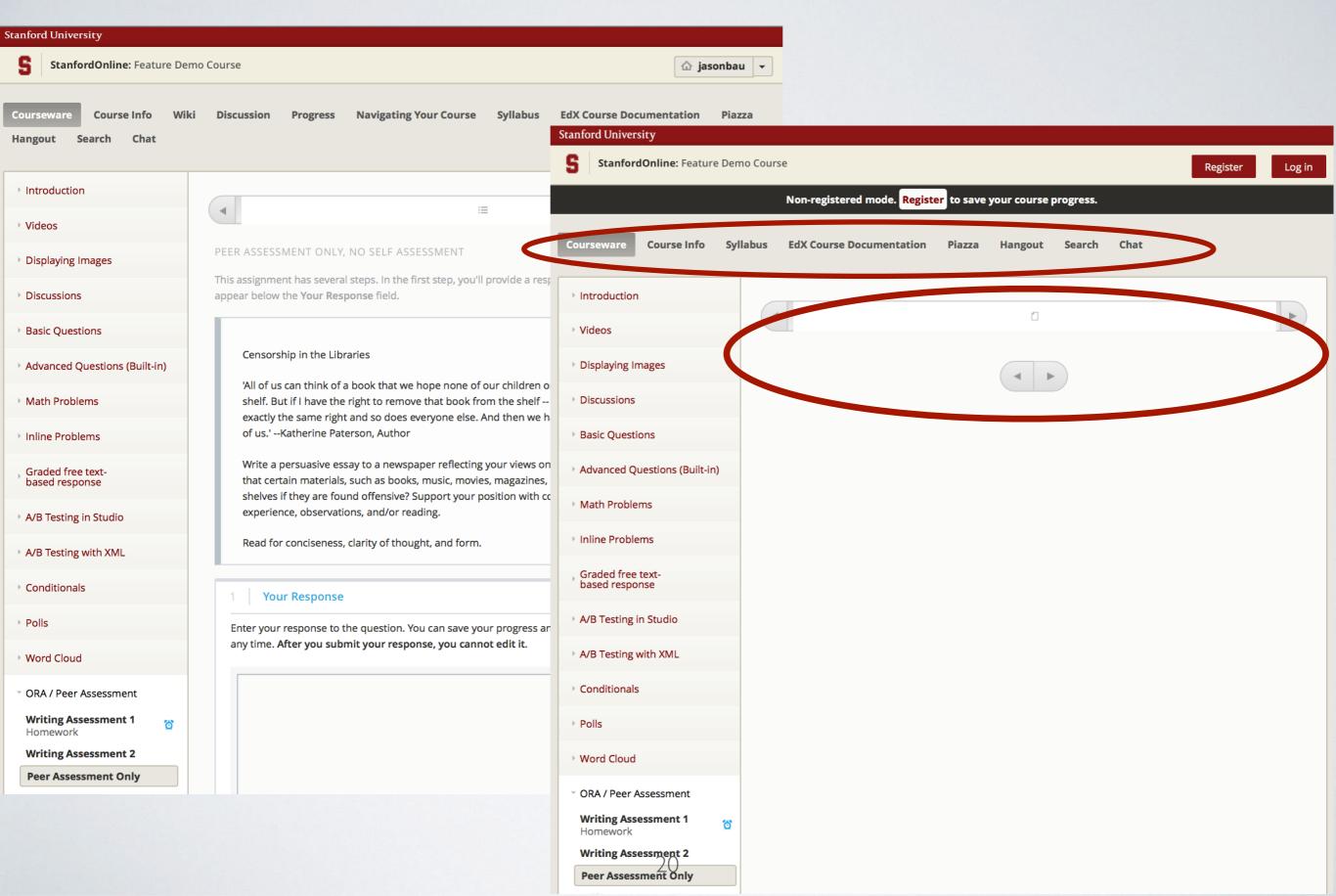
3. Enrolls this user in the course

2. Login this user in

** ** **

we missed a case ... more to come

SIDE-BY-SIDE SCREENSHOTS



POLICY — CONTENT

hardcode what content can be shown

```
In: lms/djangoapps/courseware/access.py:
has access descriptor() -> can load()
SNEAKPEEK CATEGORY = [
# NOT "discussion",
# NOT "peergrading",
# NOT "openassessment",
# NOT "annotatable",
# NOT "crowdsource hinter",
# NOT "discuss",
# NOT "error",
    "about",
    "chapter",
    "course",
    "course info",
    "problem",
    "sequential",
                              21
    "html",
```

POLICY — TABS

hardcode what tabs can be shown

```
In: common/lib/xmodule/xmodule/tabs.py:
CourseTabList.iterate_displayable()

SNEAKPEEK_TAB_TYPES = [
    CoursewareTab,
    CourseInfoTab,
    StaticTab,
    SyllabusTab
]
```

ODDS AND ENDS

- Studio middleware logs out all direct access users
- · Don't display logged-in nav for direct access user
- Most logic is conditional on

UserProfile.has_registered(request.user)

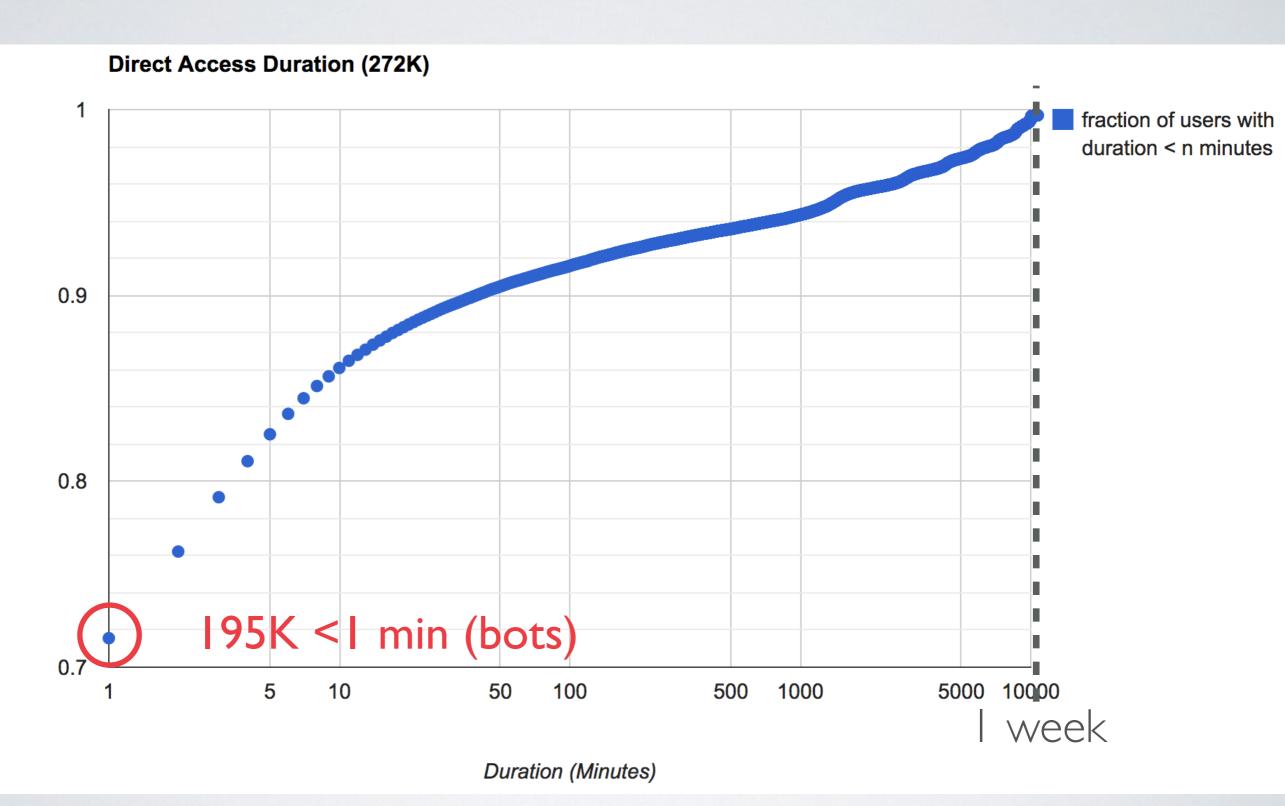
Compare to django standard:

request.user.is_authenticated()

DATA

- · 3 major courses: networking, db, open knowledge
- Rows in auth user:
 - 414753 registered
 - 281777 non-registered (seems like a lot)
- So many non-registered users...
 - · visiting course about page creates non-registered users
 - · crawler bots can visit course about page (oops), but not crawl
 - · course about pages are landing pages from search engines

LAST LOG LINE - FIRST LOG LINE

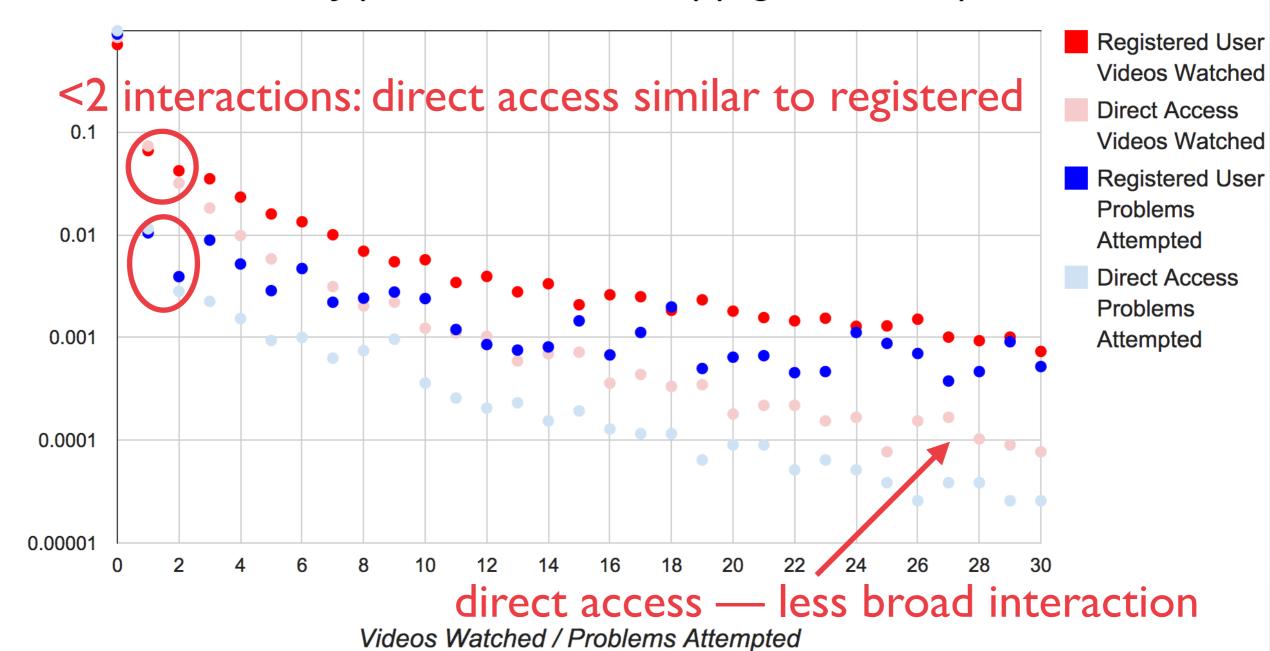


Fraction of Users

USER ACTIVITY

Student activity (direct access n=77575) (regular n=89850)

Fraction of students



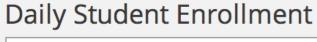
WHATTO IMPROVE

filter / categorize data better

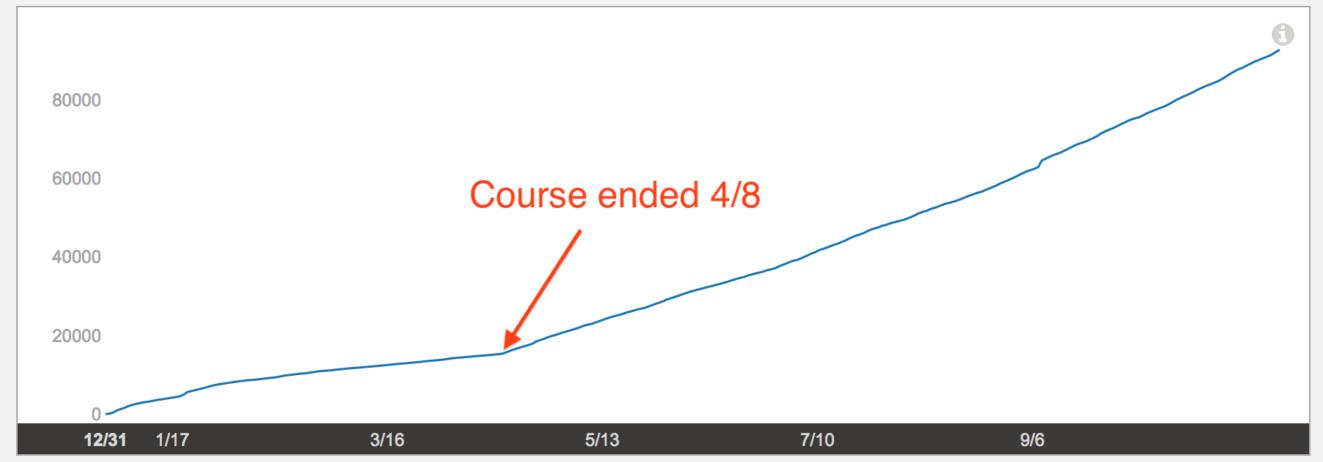
¥ ENROLLMENT ▼

Activity

Geography



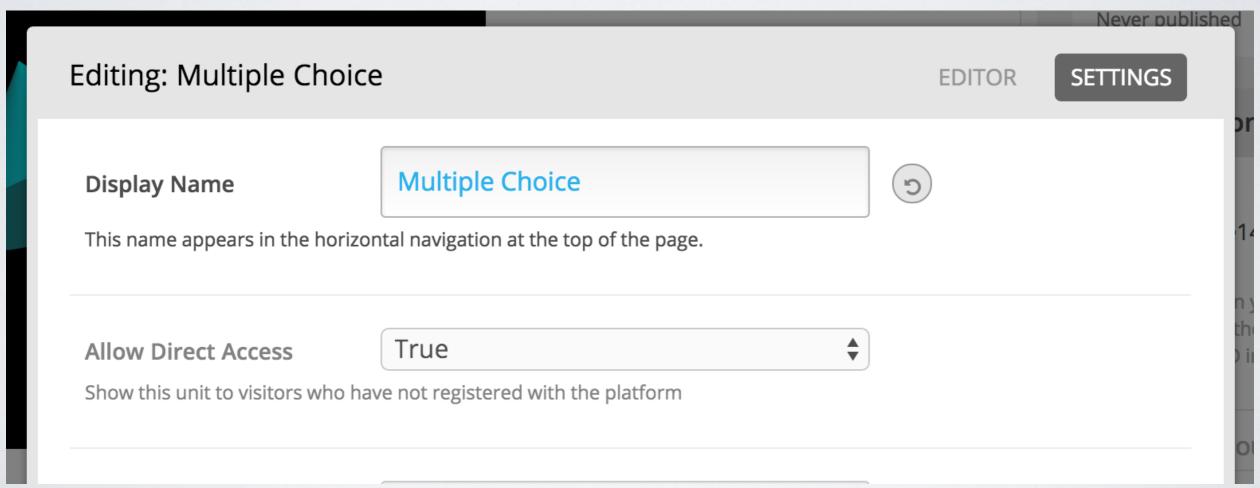
How many students are in my course?



WHAT TO IMPROVE

studio controls course content direct access

- default policy by content type configured at course level
- · inherited overridable settings down content tree



WHAT TO IMPROVE

FieldData to keep direct access data out of DB in session or memcache

But keep tracking log data!

Do last 3 slides and get it merged!

Thanks!

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github: jbau