


What are my options for putting instructional materials online?

	Table of Comparison: Instructional Web Page Hosting Technologies				
Decision Factors	Mason (osf1) Website	Classweb Website	Gunston Website (Microsoft Server)	Townhall	WebCT 3.8
Technical Description	HTML-based Websites – DOES NOT permit server-side technologies	HTML-based Websites – permits forms and counters	MS FrontPage-based Websites – permits advanced server-side capabilities	Web-based Conferencing and Collaboration Tools	Course Management System
*Space Quota	20 MB	*20 MB	*200 MB	N/A	N/A
Password Protection	Available	Available	Available	Yes, permits self-registration	Yes
Ease of Use	Requires training in web page creation and FTP	Requires training in web page creation and FTP	Requires training creating web pages using MS Frontpage and FTP	Very easy to set-up, learn, and maintain	Moderate – high learning curve depending on types of tools used
ADA Compliance	Must build ADA compliance	Must build ADA compliance	Must build ADA compliance	Some ADA compliant	ADA compliant
Strengths	Easy to maintain once learned Public access to web pages	Easy to maintain once learned Public access to web pages	-Familiar Microsoft interface -Database and form tools -Public access to web pages -Departmental sites permitted	Easy of use – no knowledge of HTML required Easy guest access Password protection	Large suite of built-in educational tools (e.g., discussion, quizzing, grading, student presentations etc.) Can import class rosters from GMU registrar. Good student management tools
Weaknesses	Standard web pages only	Standard web pages only	Need advanced knowledge of MS FrontPage (Frontpage Extensions)	Can't import class rosters	Moderate learning curve
Some instructional benefits	Put syllabi, notes, handouts and PDF or PowerPoint files online	Put syllabi, notes, handouts and PDF or PowerPoint files online	Forms / Surveys Databases Discussion Search	Discussion and chat tools Weblogs, wikis Polls, auctions Project workspaces	Student communication, interaction, assessment, and community building tools Archival and searchable content
Contact Information	support@gmu.edu	classweb@gmu.edu	support@gmu.edu	townhall@gmu.edu	webct@gmu.edu

*Space quota increases may be requested – see Contact Information above