Java WIDE
JAVA Wiki Integrated Development Environment

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"if ( noChoiceButToTeachCS1LabsDistanceEducation )
        makeitLikeFaceToFaceLabs( JavaWIDE );"
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Over the past decade applications have been moving from the desktop into the cloud. After extensive searching, very few integrated development environments has emerged for cloud computing. The Java Wiki Integrated Development Environment (JavaWIDE) is a new online IDE for Java, and it is designed to be simple enough for novice programmers to use.

JavaWIDE is free (open source) and provides anyone the capability to create, edit and run programs anytime, anywhere, and all from within a web browser – no specialized software required. JavaWIDE promotes collaboration, integrates well with social networking sites, and includes novel features such as concurrent editing support, a common code base for all users, revision history explorer, automatic posting of programs as applets, annotated and hyperlinked source code, an integrated Java API and many others.

The University of Wisconsin - Colleges (UWC) consists of 13 two year universities in the UW-System. Over the last 8 years, the UW-Colleges has taught CS1 course in Java via distance education for the lecture and hired local instructors to teach the lab component face-to-face for the smaller campuses with low enrollment. Due to budget cuts, these smaller campuses no longer wanted to "pay" for the lab for small sections of CS students and were going to drop all CS courses.

Thus a DECREE came from the UW-Colleges that the CS1 labs must be "on-line." This was followed by another DECREE that from the department chair that the Computer Science faculty did not want to lose the perceived benefits to students of having a face-to-face lab. A request for proposal (RFP) was sent to UW-C CS instructors for their recommendations on how they would accomplish this task. Another DECREE was sent to the current instructor, which was me that I had to submit a proposal which I did. And that proposal was the only one that was submitted!

I will present my proposal that accomplished the task of teaching online CS1 labs over distance education without losing the perceived benefits of face-to-face labs for spring 2012. The 8 week results will be presented as part of the presentation.