Your next step in Free Software

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What is CUNY?

- CUNY is the third largest university system
- It has 270,000 degree seeking students spread over 24 campuses
What is CUNY’s mission?

The Legislature’s intent is that The City University be supported as an independent and integrated system of higher education on the assumption that the University will continue to maintain and expand its commitment to academic excellence and to the provision of equal access and opportunity for students, faculty and staff from all ethnic and racial groups and from both sexes. The City University is of vital importance as a vehicle for the upward mobility of the disadvantaged in the City of New York. The pioneering efforts of the SEEK and College Discovery programs must not be diminished as a result of greater state financial responsibility.
Why fund two systems?

Only the strongest commitment to the special needs of an urban constituency justifies the Legislature’s support of an independent and unique structure for the University. Activities at the City University campuses must be undertaken in a spirit which recognizes and responds to the imperative need for affirmative action and the positive desire to have City University personnel reflect the diverse communities which comprise the people of the city and state of New York.
Who am I?

- Project Manager, Tech Talent Residency Program @ Queens College
- Doctoral Candidate, Criminal Justice CUNY Graduate Center
- Adjunct Instructor, Computer Science CUNY John Jay
- Worked at CUNY since 2009
What do you want to accomplish?

- amplify voices of marginalized
- create social and economic mobility
- give political empowerment tools to formerly incarcerated
- provide tools to run my course
- give students agency over their work
Will this kill my career?

- publish everything
  - methods
  - results
  - collaboration challenges
- even publish teaching fails
Fails
Will people think I am a phony?

- It is more important what you think
Will I have no friends?

- The whole idea is to join a community
  - Free Software is many communities
  - Find one that fits you. Some to avoid:
    - Linux Kernel incredibly harsh
    - Prefer Python to R
      - harsh community RTFM
    - Prefer Python to Ruby
      - larger ecosystem
      - more academics
Practical first steps
Google Docs substitute

- Mozilla Etherpad
- https://public.etherpad-mozilla.org/p/QCPUUG
- https://github.com/ether/etherpad-lite
HTML, CSS and Javascript

- https://www.freecodecamp.com/ Free Code Camp is a friendly open-source community where you learn to code and help nonprofits. We help our campers build job-worthy portfolios of real apps used by real people, while helping nonprofits. You start by working through our self-paced, browser-based full stack JavaScript curriculum.
Python

- Large diverse community
- [https://www.continuum.io/downloads](https://www.continuum.io/downloads) Avoids all the install problems on Windows.
You don’t start on a Stradivarius

- Sublime Text
- Text Wrangler
- Nano
Move to vi or emacs
Your stuck

- stack overflow http://stackoverflow.com/
- Search your error messages
- Find your people http://www.meetup.com/
- take advantage of professional development
Make contributions

- https://openhatch.org/
Keep pushing

- If your colleagues use Google Docs…
  - show them etherpad
- We should set up our own Git servers
- We should simply avoid the universities LMS
- We should build our own class blogs and websites
Thank you

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