

Technical Information

AdvisingSignups™ is written in the scripting language Perl for use with a Common Gateway Interface (CGI) on a web server, and has run successfully on several flavors of unix and linux operating systems with Apache Web Server.

AdvisingSignups™ makes use of cookies during its operation. Cookies have a bad reputation, and deservedly so. Some web sites push cookies onto a user's hard drive and set an expiration date for many years in the future. Most of the sites that do this, however, do not need to write to your computer. AdvisingSignups™ does not use this type of cookie; rather, it uses temporary cookies that are not written to a user's hard drive, reside only in memory, and expire when the user's browser is closed. If a user's browser does not support, or if a user declines to accept, cookies, AdvisingSignups™ will not work.

AdvisingSignups™ also uses frames in its operation, and is best used with a graphical web browser. Not all browsers support frames, and those that do not will not work with AdvisingSignups™. Browsers that will work well are the preferred Firefox® (1.1 or higher), Netscape® (3.0 or higher), Internet Explorer (3.0 or higher), and Opera (3.21 or higher).

Data such as sign-ups, cancellations, and log-ins are kept in a collection of flat data files. Depending on the customization level that your institution or department requests, data may be reviewed at any time through the Administrator pages. At the end of each academic session, the data files should be removed for archiving.

Availability of AdvisingSignups™

AdvisingSignups™ is available to be used, remotely, as it is housed on an *advisingsignups.com* server, or as a set of Perl scripts to be run from a server located at your institution. Contact us to discuss availability and pricing, and be sure to ask about a site-license for your institution.

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<http://advisingsignups.com/>
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For web-based experimental participation sign-ups,
visit SubjectSignups™ at:
<http://subjectsignups.com/>

Welcome to AdvisingSignups™

AdvisingSignups™ is a web-based system for managing advising appointments. Designed to be used by faculty within a college or university, AdvisingSignups™ can be customized to fit your institution's particular needs or any type of appointment scheduling.

Since the inception of the world-wide web, the increase in the frequency of web-based transactions has been phenomenal. Accordingly, educational institutions now offer many on-line services. Surprisingly, though, many institutions still rely on paper-based systems for advising or experimental sign-ups. Given the problems inherent in those paper-based methods, there exists the need for a convenient, cost-effective, web-based sign-up system that is affordable by even small colleges. AdvisingSignups™ offers a practical and affordable solution for institutions that wish to use the web for academic advising appointment maintenance.

AdvisingSignups™ and SubjectSignups™
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their respective owners.

Visit us on the world-wide web at
<http://advisingsignups.com/>

Introduction to AdvisingSignups™

The traditional system for advising appointment sign-up requires that a student claim an appointment time on a sheet of paper that the advisor has placed outside his or her office door. Problems with paper-based sign-ups include:

- students' having to make the trip to the advisor's office, just to claim an appointment time,
- advisors' having to make the trip to their offices, just to know if they have appointments,
- students' not tracking their own appointments,
- students' not having an advisor's phone number when wanting to cancel an appointment, and so not phoning,

Advantages to AdvisingSignups™ include:

- remote sign-ups, particularly helpful for commuters,
- appointments are viewable by students and advisors,
- e-mail notification of appointments and cancellations,
- digital record of appointments, and
- central collection of a semester's data
- no limit on number of users*

Using AdvisingSignups™

There are three types of log-ins available: Student, Advisor, and Administrator. Students can view and search for available appointment dates and times for any advisor, make appointments, view their appointments, and cancel appointments. Advisors can do what students can do, but have further privileges to add, edit, and delete appointment times, and view sign-ups for a given advisor. Administrators can configure the system.

Also Available is SubjectSignups™

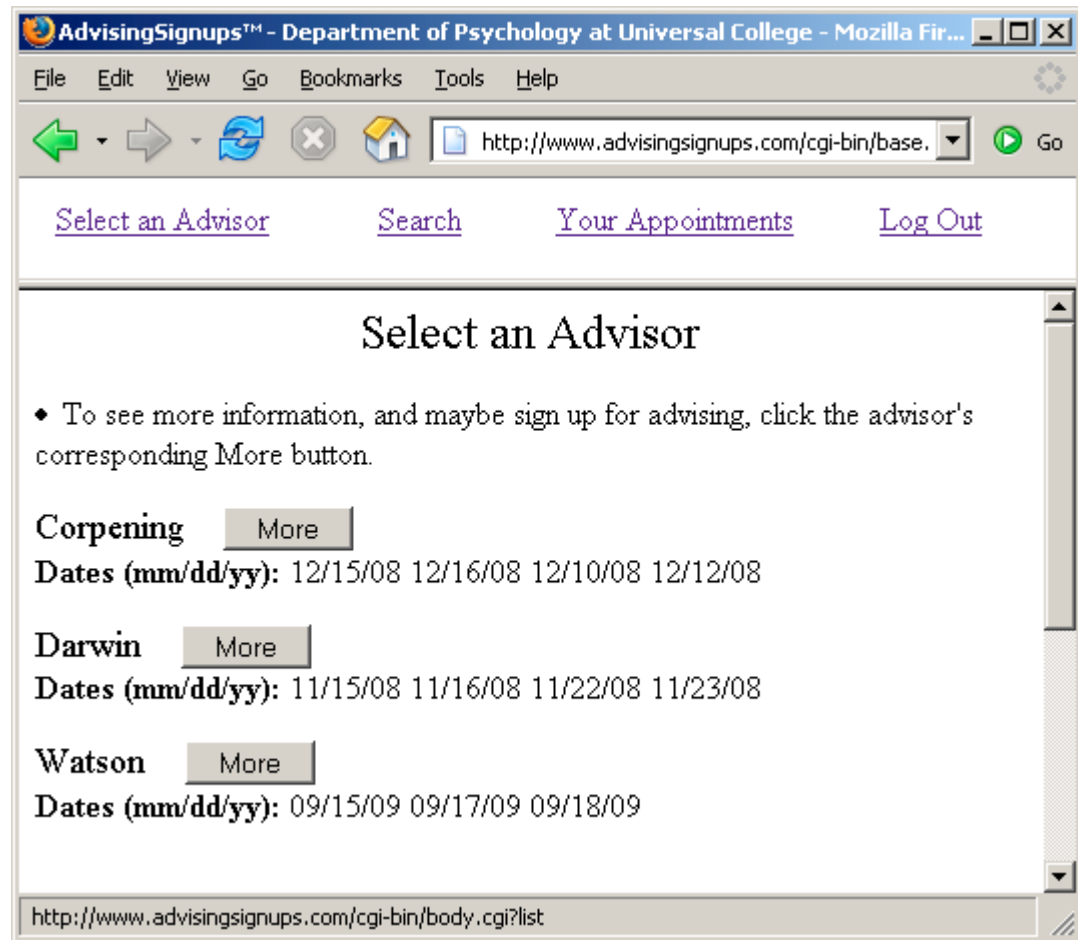
SubjectSignups™ is a customizable web-based sign-up system for managing experiment participation. Visit SubjectSignups™ at:

<http://subjectsignups.com/>

* Within reason. For example, 1,000 users simultaneously attempting the same task may burden the hosting server.

Sample Screen Shot

Below is a screen shot of what a student sees after logging into AdvisingSignups™. The view to advisors is similar, but with different navigational links. The administrator interface is different from both the student and advisor interfaces.



When students log into the system, they first see the advisor list page. By using the navigational links at the top of the page, they can also search for an appointment date and time, see their appointments, or log out. The navigational links available to advisors include the Select an Advisor, Search, and Log Out links, but also links to Add New Sessions, Edit Sessions, View Appointments, Recover Advisor Data, and Delete Advisor Data.