

Technical Information

SubjectSignups™ 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.

SubjectSignups™ 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. SubjectSignups™ 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, SubjectSignups™ will not work.

SubjectSignups™ 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 SubjectSignups™. 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, credits, 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 SubjectSignups™

SubjectSignups™ is available to be used, remotely, housed on a *subjectsignups.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.

James W. Corpening, Ph.D.
428 W. Delavan Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14213-1413 USA
1-716-886-9341

<http://subjectsignups.com>
gymus@yahoo.com

For web-based advising sign-ups,
visit AdvisingSignups™ at:
<http://advisingsignups.com/>

Welcome to SubjectSignups™

SubjectSignups™ is a web-based system for managing experimental participation appointments. Designed to be used by psychology departments that support human research and rely on participation by students, SubjectSignups™ can be customized to fit your department's particular needs.

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 experimental or advising sign-ups. Given the problems inherent in those the paper-based methods, there exists the need for a convenient, cost-effective, web-based sign-up system. SubjectSignups™ offers a practical and affordable solution for institutions that wish to use the web for participant appointments in human research programs.

SubjectSignups™ and AdvisingSignups™
are trademarks of James W. Corpening.
Other trademarks are the property of
their respective owners.

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

Introduction to SubjectSignups™

The traditional system for experimental participation sign-up involves an experimenter posting a paper-based announcement of new experiments, often posted in one location, and participants signing up from that same location. Problems with paper-based sign-ups include:

- students crowding the halls as they register for participation in experiments,
- students not tracking their own appointments and participation credits,
- students canceling others' appointments to open a slot for themselves,
- students not notifying experimenters to cancel participation, and
- experimenters having to transcribe student credits

Advantages to SubjectSignups™ include:

- remote sign-ups, particularly helpful for commuters,
- appointments are viewable by experimenters,
- appointments and credits are viewable by students,
- e-mail notice of appointments and cancellations,
- student credits are e-mailable to professors, and
- digital record of appointments and participation,
- central collection of a semester's data
- no limit on number of users*

Using SubjectSignups™

There are three types of log-ins available: Participant, Experimenter, and Administrator. Participants can view and search for available appointment dates and times, make appointments, view their appointments and credits, and cancel appointments. Experimenters can do what participants can do (except view credits), but have further privileges to add, edit, and delete experiments, view appointments for a given experiment, and assign credit for participation. Administrators can configure the system.

Also Available is AdvisingSignups™

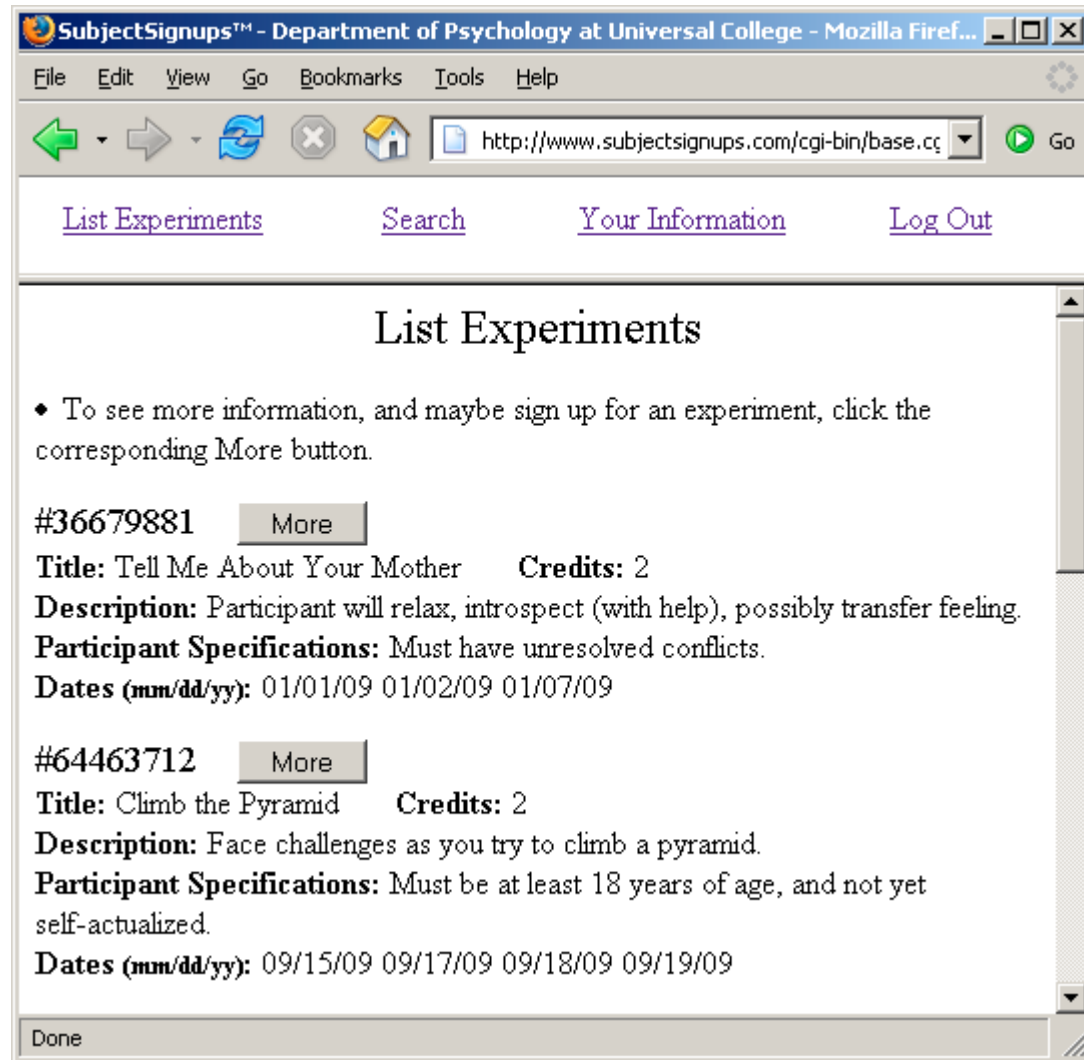
AdvisingSignups™ is a customizable, web-based sign-up system specific for advising appointments, but may be customized to suit your particular appointment scheduling needs. Visit AdvisingSignups™ at:

<http://advisingsignups.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 SubjectSignups™. The view to experimenters is similar, but with different navigational links. The administrator interface is different from both the student and experimenter interfaces.



When students log into the system, they first see the experiment 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 and credits, or log out. The navigational links available to experimenters include the List Experiments, Search, and Log Out links, but also links to Add a New Experiment, Edit an Experiment, View Current Sign-ups, Recover a Lost Experiment, and Delete an Experiment.