

**\*&^%\$#@!!! - A Report on the Current Web-based Data Input of Grades for the English Zone at Gyeongsang National University (GSNU), Jinju, Gyeongnam, Korea**

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*This Spring Semester has seen the inauguration of the English Zone at GSNU. The web-based data input method has I understand been adapted from that prepared for Summer and Winter Camps. I describe some problems with its user-interface and suggest some improvements, the most notable being the need for consistency in romanisation, formatting and order of names.*

**Spring semester experience in the English Zone with the web-based data input system**

In about the fourth of the two-week sessions, E-Z teachers were asked to log in to a web-based data input system and enter the marks for each student for that session. There have been some difficulties in getting the system operational, most of which I do not intend to address (for example, not all students are enrolled on the software at this very late stage, with classes already having finished). I don't doubt that some poor soul somewhere has been greatly overworked! But the user-interface of the software could I suggest be improved.

Consideration of this system really needs to be done in conjunction with the printed B4 roll sheets used in the Blue Books, which teachers mark daily with attendance, and at the end of each session with scores for Participation (out of 20) and Weekly Test (out of 6). There is nowhere on the sheet designated for the fortnightly Attendance Score (out of 20).

**Ten Ways in which the Software could be improved:**

For convenience, I term the first page that appears after log-in to be the “*Virtual Class Roll*”. Logically, the printed roll in the Blue Books is termed the “*Physical Class Roll*”. The window that appears when one selects the Edit or Modify button for an individual student is then termed the “*Virtual Individual Roll*”.

**1. Ensure the orders of names on the Virtual and the Physical Class Rolls are consistent.**

It is rather surprising that the order of names varies between the Virtual and Physical class rolls. It leads to confusion in entering data, as it is rather easy to select the wrong student's name in the list on the screen. The name order should be consistent, and logically done in numerical order of their student ID number, which should be shown on both Virtual and Physical Class Rolls.

**2. Ensure the spellings of names on the Virtual & the Physical Class Rolls are consistent.**

The spelling is not always consistent between both rolls, and this has led to confusion over who is who. Early in the process I entered data incorrectly for this very reason; and at that early stage it was impossible to modify or correct the data.

**3. Ensure the naming conventions on the Virtual and Physical Class Rolls are consistent.**

For example in Class 22 we have:

<i>Virtual Roll</i>	Bark Jun-Hee	Gim Yeo Jin	juhyungjun	Jung Eun-mi
<i>Physical Roll</i>	Bark, Jun Hee	Gim, Yeo Jin	Ju, Hyung Jun	Jung, Eun Mi
<i>Virtual Roll</i>	Kim bichna	Kim Ji Eun	kimhansol	kimmiyoung
<i>Physical Roll</i>	Kim Bich Na	Kim, Ji Eun	Kim, Han Sol	Kim, Mi Young
<i>Virtual Roll</i>	Lee Hyo-Jung	lee jae wook	LeeSeokHee	Moon Jung Sik
<i>Physical Roll</i>	Lee, Hyo Jung	Lee, Jae Wook	Lee, Seok Heo	Moon, Jung Sik
<i>Virtual Roll</i>	park jun hong	Sung jeho	---	---
<i>Physical Roll</i>	Park, Jun Hong	Sung, Je Ho	Lee, Mi Hyang	Lee, Sun Mi

*Table 1: Comparison of naming conventions on the Virtual and Physical Class Rolls*

Whilst the Physical Roll is consistent, with initial capitals for all names, spaces between, and comma after family name, there is no consistency within the Virtual Roll, or between rolls.

## 2005 Year 1 Semester English Zone

Total No : 14

CAMP NAME	CLASS	NAME	lecturer_out
E-Z	22Class	박준희 Bark Jun-Hee	modify
E-Z	22Class	김여진 Gim Yeo Jin	modify
E-Z	22Class	주형준 juhyungjun	modify
E-Z	22Class	정은미 Jung Eun-mi	modify
E-Z	22Class	김빛나 Kim bichna	modify
E-Z	22Class	김지은 Kim Ji Eun	modify
E-Z	22Class	김한솔 kimhansol	modify
E-Z	22Class	김미영 kimmiyoung	modify
E-Z	22Class	이효정 Lee Hyo-Jung	modify
E-Z	22Class	이재욱 lee jae wook	modify
E-Z	22Class	이석희 LeeSeokHee	modify
E-Z	22Class	문정식 Moon Jung Sik	modify
E-Z	22Class	박준홍 park jun hong	modify
E-Z	22Class	성제호 Sung jehoh	modify

First 1 End Page. 1/1

Logout

*Fig. 1: A screenshot of the Virtual Class Roll for Class 22*

Some names are not entered correctly, e.g. **juhyungjun**, with no separation of the family and given names. There is no consistency between the use of upper case and lower case. The style used for **Kim Ji Eun** is I think preferable, with spaces separating given and first names, and capital initial letters for each name, with the two given names separated and both names having initial capitals. Perhaps a comma should be used after the family name, followed by a space before the first given name, as in the Physical Class Roll, e.g. **Kim, Ji Eun**.

But here we also have:

- **LeeSeokHee** with initial capitals but no spaces;
- **park jun hong** with spaces but no initial capitals;
- **Lee Hyo-Jung** with initial capitals on all names but just one space and a hyphen;
- **Jung Eun-mi** with one space and a hyphen, but no capital on the second given name;
- **Sung jehoh** with no hyphen or space separating **je** and **hoh**, and no capital on either given name.

It is all rather mystifying!

#### **4. Ensure the romanisation of names of students is consistent.**

Again consider the Virtual Class Roll shown above. We have **Bark Jun-Hee**, and **park jun hong**. But in Hangeul, their family name is the same i.e. **박**. We also have **Gim Yeo Jin**, **Kim bichna**, **kimhansol** and **kimmiyoung**, all with the same family name in Hangeul, i.e. **김**. So it would help greatly if a consistent pattern of romanisation of syllables was used; and that should I suggest comprise a part of the English education provided in the English Zone and in the School of Language Education and International Programs at GSNU.

#### **5. Ensure Student ID Numbers are shown on both Virtual and Physical Class Rolls.**

Although the Student ID Number - which is a unique identifier - is shown on the Virtual Individual Roll, it should as previously mentioned be shown on the Virtual and Physical Class Rolls. It is also a convenient means of uniquely ordering the names in a list, as it can be sorted numerically in a spreadsheet.

**6. Provide viewing and editing access to marks of classes taught in previous sessions.**

When one logs in to the Virtual Class Roll, it is assumed that one is only concerned with the current (or just past) session. But I wish to check marks of previous classes I have taught to ensure they have been corrected by others - it should be possible to access this information.

**7. Make the Individual Virtual Roll of landscape orientation rather than portrait.**

Clicking the Edit or Modify button beside a students name on the Virtual Class Roll opens the Virtual Individual Roll, e.g.

2005 Year 1 Semester English Zone						
Gyeongsang National University						
School	경상대학교					
Name	Moon Jung Sik	Sex	Male			
Class	22Class					
Date of Birth	1986 년 05 월 10 일					
Address	부산 부산진구 당감4동 당감주공아파트 204-802					
Phone	051-896-7708					
Week	Comment					Teacher name
1	<input type="text"/>					<input type="text"/>
2	<input type="text"/>					<input type="text"/>
3	<input type="text"/>					<input type="text"/>
4	<input type="text"/>					<input type="text"/>
5	<input type="text"/>					<input type="text"/>
6	<input type="text"/>					<input type="text"/>
1. Participation						
Period1	Period2	Period3	Period4	Period5	Period6	Total
<input type="text"/> %	<input type="text"/> %	<input type="text"/> %	<input type="text"/> %	<input type="text"/> %	17 %	2.83 %

*Fig. 2: A screenshot of the opening window of the Virtual Individual Roll*

The bottom half of this window does not appear. The places which one needs to access to enter information for Attendance, Participation, Oral Tests and Penalty Points are hidden.

So one must immediately scroll down to the lower half of the page (shown in Fig. 3 below); but now the top half of the page has disappeared. Immediately one loses the student's name - so - um, did I select the correct student? Oh let's check, so I now have to scroll again to the top half of the page, etc.

Frustrating! In fact the entire page will not display on a 15 inch powerbook screen - plenty of screen estate available on either side but just nowhere near enough depth.

So, why not rearrange this page from portrait orientation to landscape? The student name also needs to be larger, clearer and easier to read, and closer to the entry points for the data, to make it easy to glance between them (refer Table 2 below).

무제 문서

5						
6						
<b>1. Participation</b>						
Period1	Period2	Period3	Period4	Period5	Period6	Total
<input type="text"/> %	<input type="text"/> %	<input type="text"/> %	<input type="text"/> %	<input type="text"/> %	17 %	2.83 %
<b>2. Attendance</b>						
Period1	Period2	Period3	Period4	Period5	Period6	Total
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	20	20	6.67
<b>3. Oral Test</b>						
Period1	Period2	Period3	Period4	Period5	Period6	Total
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	4.8	5.8	10.6
<b>4. Penalty Point</b>						
Period1	Period2	Period3	Period4	Period5	Period6	Total
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	0
<b>Mid-term Test</b>		<input type="text"/> 0	<b>Final-term Test</b>		<input type="text"/> 0	
<b>Camp director's comment</b>	<input type="text"/>					

Fig. 3: A screenshot of the scrolled-down window of the Virtual Individual Roll

**8. Ensure information orders on the Virtual and Physical Class Rolls are consistent.**

On the Physical Class Roll, there are currently columns for (in order) Name, Attendance (daily), Participation and Weekly Test. This order is different from the Virtual Roll. On the Virtual Class Roll, the information is currently in rows for (in order) Participation, Attendance (as a total mark), Oral Test, and Penalty Point.

Let's get the order and the terminology consistent - logically:

**Student ID      Name      Attendance      Participation      Oral Test**

Reorder the Virtual Individual Roll as a landscape page, with the information in columns rather than rows. The Periods are conveniently organized in rows rather than columns:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Participation</b>	<b>Oral Test</b>	<b>Penalty Point</b>
Session 1				
Session 2				
Session 3				
Session 4				
Session 5				
Session 6				

Table 2: A schematic reorganization of a portion of the Virtual Individual Roll

### **9. Fix the error message that appears when you Save.**

When saving entered data, error messages appear on a Mac, and also on the SOLEIP PCs:



Fig. 4: A screenshot of the error message on Saving individual results on a Mac

Another problem encountered when entering comments about a student is that on saving the changes, the comment disappears - but the teacher's name remains.

### **10. Display all grades for all of the students of a class on the one Virtual page.**

I prefer to be able to view all the grades I have given a class on the one page, to check it more readily against a printed page, and to compare students' marks. This is quite important for getting a sense of how well the class has performed, for scaling, and for identifying which students have excelled, or have done poorly.

A related suggestion is to make it possible to copy the list of Student ID's and Names in order to paste in an Excel spreadsheet for the individual teacher to use. This suggestion also applies to the SOLEIP Freshman and Institute classes. Lists of Student ID's and Names in English and perhaps in Hangul (though teachers who do not have Hangul properly installed on their personal computers will encounter problems) should be available for download. Individual teachers can then quickly set up spreadsheets for each class, to track attendance and marks for assignments, homework, exams, and overall grades.

Ideally when completed, these spreadsheet documents would be digitally submitted to the Administration at the end of the semester, to comply with the need to submit grades. Standardized spreadsheets would be necessary for this, but it would save a great deal of data-entry work. Alternatively it might be possible to have these documents as Acrobat pdf forms, rather than Excel spreadsheets, as I understand the most recent releases of the free Acrobat Reader enable the entering of information into forms. The use of Acrobat Reader would also solve the problems of using Hangul, as that font would be saved with the pdf document.

Please note that I have previously distributed to SOLEIP teachers by email useful formulae to automatically convert percentage marks to letter grades (e.g. 96.4 --> A+). These just need to be entered as an equation in an Excel spreadsheet. The formulae together with instructions for their use are available from me at [RMeurant@Mac.com](mailto:RMeurant@Mac.com) by email request.

### **Conclusion**

In response to the recent requests for submissions, I have suggested ten ways in which the web-based method of data input of grades of students in the English Zone can be substantially improved. As a general note, I welcome the digitization of grading and attendance record keeping. And I look forward to the provision of on-line examinations with automatic marking and grading, which can I understand be provided with ExamView Pro™ and related software.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Meurant, Robert C. *Freshman English Spring 2005 Mid-term Exam: A Descriptive Report and Evaluation of a Written Exam prepared using World Link ExamView Pro™ Test Builder version 4.1.5 software*. Unpublished submission distributed to GSNU SOLEIP & English Zone native teachers and selected Korean staff, 4/27/2005 (available from the writer).