1. What is the name of your website?
re:search
2. What is the url for your website?
http://rcoh.scripts.mit.edu/gradsearch/website/
3. List the name, school (if not MIT), year, major, and number of years of web programming experience of everyone on your team.
Leah Alpert, MIT, 2013, course 6, 2 years
Russell Cohen, MIT, 2013, course 6, 1 year
Ram Bhaskarmurthi, MIT, 2014, course 6, 0 years
4. Describe the problem your website aims to solve.
Grad School search on the web is currently broken -- Lots of websites exist to help you find schools, but that isn't how finding grad schools really works. Grad School is about the professors -- you want to go to a school where there are professors doing research you like, so you can find the advisor you want. The current grad school flow works something like this:

1. Come up with a grad school off the top of your head
2. Find their website and navigate to the department your research is in
3. Click on /all/ of the professors (possibly hundreds) and go through them 1 by 1 looking for professors who share your research interests.
4. Repeat, literally, ad nauseum

5. Describe how your website solves this problem.
re:search solves this problem by enabling users to:

1. Search for professors from multiple universities simultaneously
2. Search by keyword to find professors across multiple departments who are researching what you're interested in
3. Filter results by school and department
4. View information about many professors at a time
5. Interact with an engaging, intuitive and unified user experience

6. What backend technology did you use?

1. PHP for the site, mySQL for the database, custom python framework for the scraping

7. What frontend technology did you use?

1. Javscript, (jQuery, Twitter Bootstrap), HTML5 (for deeplinking / back-button support), HTML/CSS

8. List all of your site's features.

1. Searchable database of about 6700 professors from 7 universities (scraped from each university's website)
2. Search for professors by research interest, word in research summary, or professor's name
3. Grid view of professor results with picture, name, department, school, and research interests
4. Autocomplete of research keywords and professor names
5. Ability to "star" professors that you are interested in
6. Ability to star searches (including any filtering options) that you want to come back to
7. Pages to view your starred searches and professors
8. Login to save your starred results permanently. For users who are not logged in, we use the anonymous user pattern which allows users to star results without logging in. When they create a new account or log into an existing account we merge the starred searches on professors into the existing account.
9. Filtering of search results by school, department, and starred
10. Dynamic updating of filtering options and number of results for each option
11. Deep linking support for searches (including filtered searches) and professor view pages, so each page view has a unique url that you can go back to, even though we use AJAX to eliminate page reloads
12. Click on a professor's summary box to view a modal dialog with more information about the professor and links to the info source and prof's website
13. Sliding modals to view other profs using buttons and arrow keys
14. Infinite scroll -- First 50 professor results load immediately and more load as you scroll down the page

9. Describe which feature(s) are most important and describe why/how that adds to the core value of your website.

1. Search for professors by research interest, word in research summary, and professor's name.
    a. Whether you only have a rough idea of what you are looking for or if you know the name of the professor you are interested in, we can help you find what you are looking for.
2. Ability to "star." This is important because people want to keep track of their favorite professors.
    a. Allows users to avoid repeating work. Once a professor or a search is starred, you can easily come back at a later date.
3. Starred professors can also be filtered by school and department, which is useful to determine which grad schools have professors you are interested in, and should therefore apply to.
4. Filtering of search results by school, department, and starred
    a. The ability to refine a query to the schools and department you care about quickly increases the signal:noise ratio.
5. Multiple levels of info detail
    a. At lowest level of detail, we provide a small enough amount information to be able to scan quickly, while still enabling users to determine whether or not they want to see a professor
    b. Users can then "zoom in" on professors to get a higher level of detail, presented in a uniform way.

10. Tell us what you think makes your site cool and/or unique.

1. Professors from multiple schools all displayed in one place, in one format
    a. Eliminates the experience of having to sift through 100s of pages on 100s of websites
2. Innovative grid view and sliding modal display
    a. The grid provides a quick easy way to scan professors -- The sliding modal provides an enjoyable way to view more detail.
3. Dynamic filtering
    a. Filtering by School / Department allows nearly instant drilldown of results. Care was taken to avoid the UX shortcomings of this experience on other sites.
4. URL modification
    a. Every page has a meaningful URL even though we almost never refresh the page. We achieve this via HTML5 url / history modification and intelligent1 PHP on the back end.

11. List all 3rd party API's, 3rd party plugins, open-source code, etc that you used.

1. Twitter bootstrap
2. jQuery/jQuery UI

12. Does your site fit within the MIT Utility category?

Yes. Our site was inspired by our MIT friends struggling to find grad schools, so many people at MIT have this problem. However, its obviously not a problem that is unique to MIT.

13. Does your site fit within the Philanthropy category?

No.

14. Will at least one of your team members be able to attend judging on Wednesday and awards on Thursday if you are chosen as a semifinalist?

Yes.