

6.470 Submission: LearnTo

1. What is the name of your website?
 - a. Our website is called **LearnTo**.
2. What is the url for your website?
 - a. <http://learnto.herokuapp.com> – our site is currently designed for the newest version of Chrome.
3. List the name, school (if not MIT), year, major, and number of years of web programming experience of everyone on your team.
 - a. Brodrick Childs, 2013, Course 6, 1 year of experience
 - b. Oleksandr Stubailo, 2014, Course 6, 4 years of experience
 - c. Jeffrey Warren, 2014, Course 6, 6 weeks of experience
4. Describe the problem your website aims to solve.
 - a. Currently there is no way to connect potential teachers to a base of students virtually. There are a lot of knowledgeable people who would want to share their skills throughout various fields of knowledge, but no place to do it in a structured online environment.
5. Describe how your website solves this problem.
 - a. We created an online class platform that anyone can use to post a free class. It's easy to find classes about different topics, sign up for them, and view all of the class materials. Also, our website facilitates interaction between students and teachers via a discussion and question/answer forum for each class.
6. What backend technology did you use?
 - a. Ruby on Rails 3.2 release candidate, Heroku hosting, S3 file storage
7. What frontend technology did you use?
 - a. JQuery, JQuery UI, TinyMCE editor, CoffeeScript, HAML, SASS
8. List all of your site's features.
 - a. General
 - i. Facebook login
 - ii. Auto-completing class search
 - iii. Search by category and class keywords (title, summary, tagline)
 - iv. Auto-updating notifications indicator on a lot of events (comments on your stuff, responses to your comments, announcements, etc)
 - b. Student point of view
 - i. News feed of new and updated items in classes you're taking
 - ii. AJAX comments on materials and lessons, as well as responses and comments in the discussion board
 - c. Teacher point of view
 - i. News feed of new questions and discussion posts in classes you're teaching (in the teacher feed)

- ii. Ability to upload any kind of file as a homework, material, quiz, or lesson, as well as link to videos on YouTube and Vimeo
 - iii. Ability to post announcements that directly notify all of the students in the class
 - iv. An alternative to uploading a file is using our site's built-in document editor, which allows embedding of media such as mp3 audio, youtube videos, images, and links to other files and websites (try creating a class and selecting write new document in lessons)
 - v. Ability to keep lessons and other materials as a draft and then publish them later
 - vi. Seamless re-ordering of materials and between sections on the lessons/materials pages with drag and drop, in addition to many other AJAX features on that page
 - vii. Admin privileges on the discussion board of your class (can delete anything)
- 9. Describe which feature(s) are most important and describe why/how that adds to the core value of your website.
 - a. The way we organize materials in the pages – Lessons, Homework, Materials, Quizzes – allows teachers to have a well-defined structure for their classes. This kind of structure is very important for a learning environment because it is clear in which order the materials are meant to be viewed.
 - b. The notification system is important because it facilitates interaction between users and teachers – if the teacher wasn't notified about questions about their lessons, they wouldn't know to respond to them.
 - c. The discussion forum is the last piece of the puzzle – it allows the students in a class to discuss with each other about the class content, relieving some of the work that the teacher would have to do to answer all the questions
- 10. Tell us what you think makes your site cool and/or unique.
 - a. It's the only website that allows anyone to post a structured online class. There are websites like wikihow that will tell you how to do one thing, but on our site you can learn about a whole subject from start to finish.
- 11. List all 3rd party API's, 3rd party plugins, open-source code, etc that you used.
 - a. Ruby gems
 - i. Authlogic
 - ii. Paperclip
 - iii. Aws-s3
 - iv. Kaminari
 - v. Google analytics
 - vi. JQuery-rails
 - vii. Recaptcha
 - viii. OmniAuth and OmniAuth-Facebook
 - ix. Nokogiri
 - x. Imagemagick
 - b. Javascript

- i. JQuery
- ii. JQuery UI
- iii. Google code prettify
- iv. Jplayer
- v. TinyMCE
- vi. AjaxUpload

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

- a. We feel that MIT students would be active users of our website, and many people we talked to were really excited about teaching and taking classes on our website. The students we talked to had lots of good ideas and were excited about being able to learn from classes taught by their peers. We also feel it could supplement their learning by being another resource to look things up and discuss them while doing work or thinking about a class.

13. Does your site fit within the Philanthropy category?

- a. 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?

- a. Yes.