1. What is the name of your website?

LessonDrop

2. What is the url for your website?

http://www.lessondrop.com

3. List the name, school (if not MIT), year, major, and number of years of web programming experience of everyone on your team.

Shri Ganeshram, 2015, Course 18/6-3, 1 year

Mark Fayngersh, 2015, Course 6-3, 3 years

4. Describe the problem your website aims to solve.

In the academic environment online today, we have sites like Wikipedia (site whose purpose is to serve as a reference) being used as learning sites. The problem is that Wikipedia isn't meant to teach; it's meant to be used as a reference. Salman Khan is fixing this problem to some extent with KhanAcademy, but his site is limited in its scope, as it is restricted to hosting only content produced by Sal and his team.

5. Describe how your website solves this problem.

LessonDrop fixes this problem by providing a platform through which users can submit "lessons" whose purpose is to teach, not just inform. Lessons can

implement many of LessonDrop's special educational features, such as TeX for mathematical lessons, video for interactive lessons like those of Khan's, and syntax highlighting and support for source code compilation for computer science lessons. Other features can be easily implemented in the future as we see what requests our users have for us. We're making it easy for everyone in the world to be a Sal.

6. What backend technology did you use?

PHP, MySQL, Slim

7. What frontend technology did you use?

CoffeeScript, jQuery, less, Bootstrap from Twitter, Javascript

8. List all of your site's features.

LessonDrop has many features:

>ability for users to login/register normally or through facebook

>ability for users to share lessons on facebook

>ability for users to comment on lessons through facebook

>ability for users to search the lesson database via tags, title, or author

>ability for users to rate lessons

>ability for users to create, edit, and delete lessons

>ability for users to upload video which is converted to the webm format

>ability for users to use LaTeX in their lessons

>Markdown formatting for lessons

>ability for users to insert code blocks that are syntax highlighted in their lessons

>ability for users to see which lessons they've created

>ability for users to add source code in multiple languages to their lessons that will compile and output on LessonDrop

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

The most important features are those involving the editing and creation of lessons, as the lesson is the center of LessonDrop. The many features that can be implemented while creating a lesson make lessons more powerful as a medium that wiki pages and videos on Khan's site. The lesson gives the author artistic freedom when teaching others.

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

It's the first site of its kind, and it has a huge potential to change the world. It's very simple in design and it's straightforward, yet functional. It redefines the way people can teach each other on the web. Its potential is amazing—access to thousands of teachers' lessons with nothing but a computer and internet. Anyone can be a teacher; anyone can be a student. It's social learning; it's the future.

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

Facebook API, ideone.com API, Zencoder API, Amazon S3, ACE.js editor, Twitter Bootstrap, jRating, jQuery, {lesscss},

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

Yes, MIT students and professors, especially in mathematics and computer science, can use this site to teach each other.

13. Does your site fit within the Philanthropy category?

Yes, it's all about helping make education accessible to everyone and teaching online much easier.

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.

Check out the slides on our about page!