Hi Mentoring Committee,

This morning in the committee meeting (http://pad.software-carpentry.org/scf-mentoring), we discussed new approaches for the required checkout procedure for newly-minted instructors.

Two current problems that we need to over come are that:

1. The current checkout procedure is insufficient in preparing instructors because they only teach 5 minutes of any given lesson of their choice.
2. The time required to complete the proposed practicum (<http://software-carpentry.org/blog/2015/12/feedback-on-practicum-proposal.html)> seems to be too great for both mentors and new instructors.

One solution we came up with for a revamped checkout procedure is a hybrid of the current checkout and the proposed practicum. The idea is as follows:

1. The mentoring committee will host lesson-specific checkout session for the major SFC or DC lessons (e.g. the unix shell, version control with git, programming with R, data organization in spreadsheets).
2. Newly minted instructors are required to sign up for TWO lesson-specific checkout sessions prepared to demonstrate their ability to teach 5 minutes of ANY part of that chosen lesson.
3. During the lesson-specific checkout, the mentor will assign the instructors various sections of the lesson to teach, with each instructor teaching a different part of that lesson (e.g. files and directories, creating things, pipe and filters, loops)
4. The mentor will give each instructor feedback on their teaching and will pass or fail each instructor on that given topic.

Ideally, this will give each newly-minted instructor a better overview of the SCF lessons, and thy will better equipped to teach because they or their peers have taught sections covering the major topics for two different lessons. Also, this will reduce the time commitment for the mentors relative to the proposed practicum.

Any thoughts or suggestions would be greatly appreciated. Please let me know if you have questions or concerns.