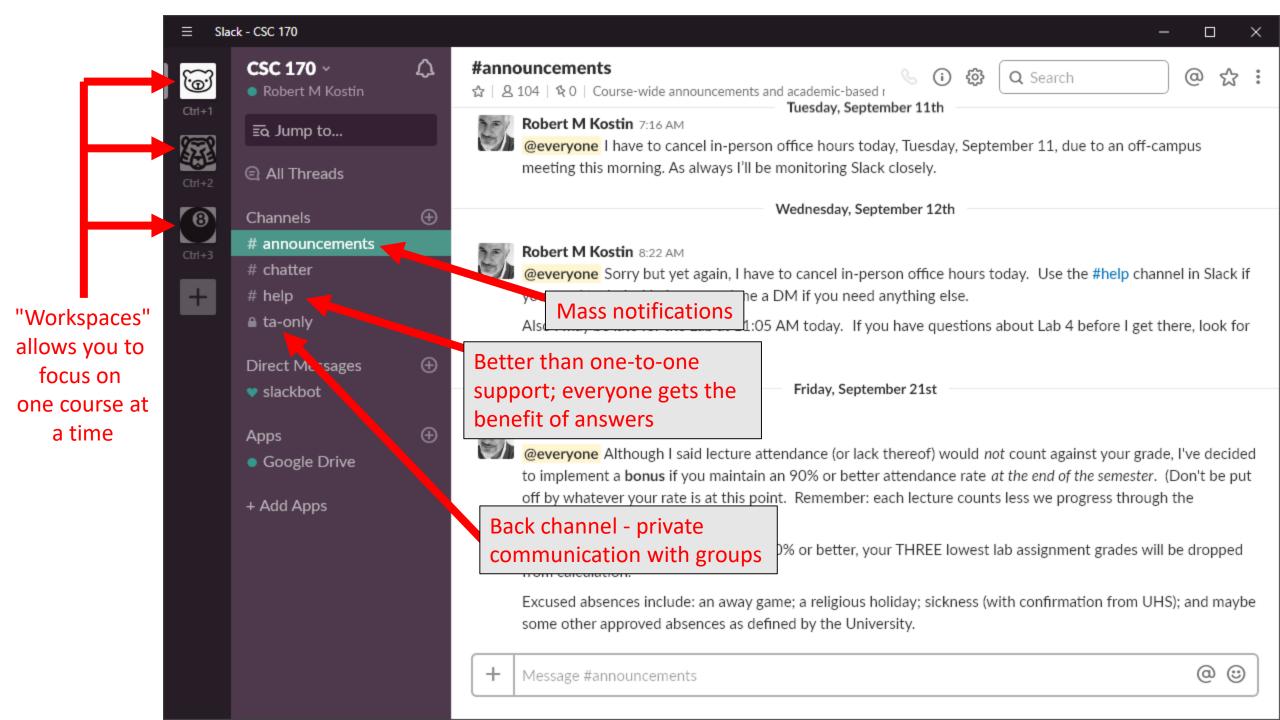
Slack for Classroom Communication

YACT (Yet Another Communication Tool)



Slack is a Communications Tool

- Any platform app: iOS, Android, MacOS, Windows, and Web
- Smartphone apps: good use of notifications; it's the mode students use most often
- One class, one semester = one Slack "Workspace"
- Free (plus billable extended features)

Benefits

For Students

- Slack: industry standard in technical companies, currently
- Notifications: e.g. project is due; class is canceled
- Private groups: for team assignments, fast create, use, and then delete

For Instructors

- Ability to focus on one topic/course without distraction of everything at once
- Ability to process hundreds of messages instead of a few dozen emails
- Common questions answered by TAs, possibly answered by other students
- Easy mass-communication at a moment's notice

Startup

- In the syllabus: link to the sign-up page
 - e.g. http://docs.csc170.org/syllabus.html join.slack.com/t/csc170/signup
- Advice
 - Load the app(s)
 - Control noise turn-off some notifications for some channels
 - Setup private channels for teams
- Why use it?
 - Questions via email = one week delay
 Questions via Slack = almost real-time response
 - Class cancellations → via Slack #announcements channel only

Shortfalls

- Re-directing from email or DM → #help channel
- UI not perfect
 - Messages get lost (need to remember to "star")
 - Sort order: chronological or reverse-chronological?
 - Channels can get noisy
 - When responding to a post, need to remember to "start a thread" (not do the obvious thing)
 - Do NOT type and press enter! (ding, ding, ding, ding,...)
 "Hi professor Kostin" <enter>
 "I'm having a problem with my project" <enter>
 "Can you help" <enter>
 "me?" <enter>
 ...
 USE SHIFT-ENTER TO START A NEW LINE!!!
- Don't be spammy response time will vary