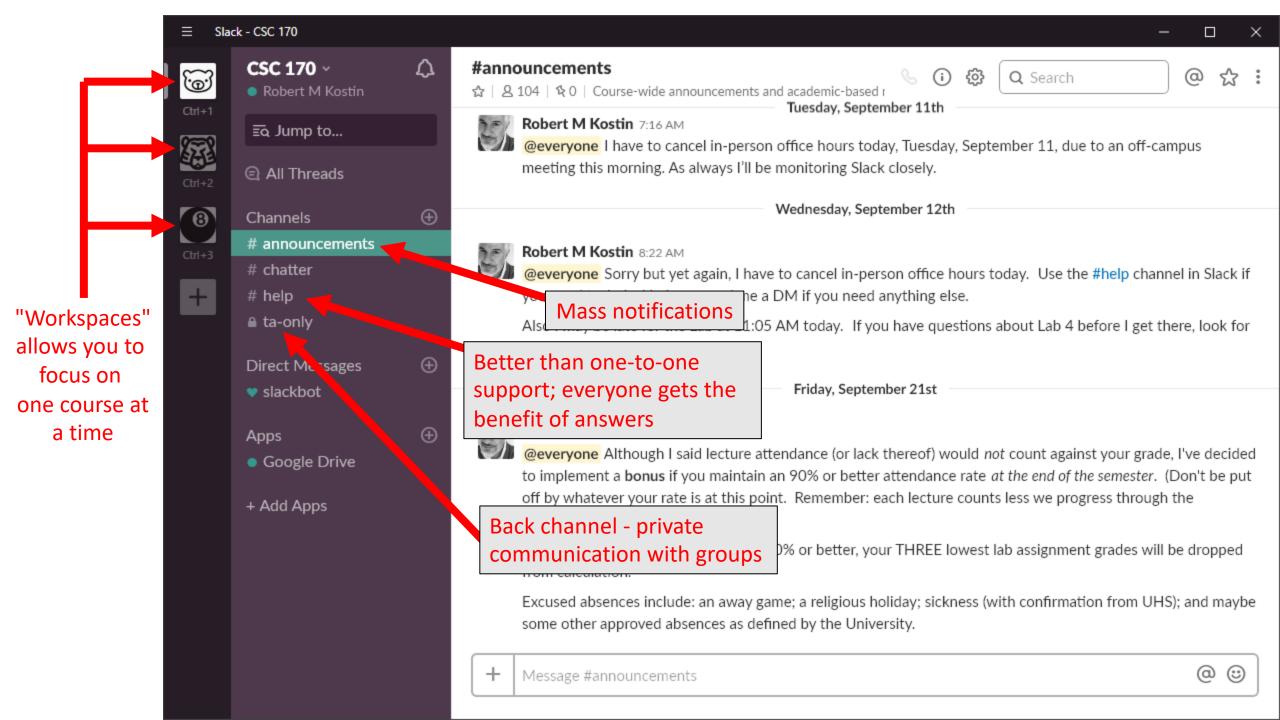


Slack for Communication and Announcements in Academia



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"
 - Channels == messages/threads are organized & archived
 - Direct messages == private communication
- Why use it?
 - Questions via email == one-week delay
 Questions via Slack == almost real-time response
 - Reminders and cancellations → via Slack #announcements channel only

Benefits





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

Shortfalls

Reminders to re-direct from email or DM \rightarrow #help channel

Remember: it's not email – it's a post (keep it short!)

Remember: don't be spammy - response time will vary

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, 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!!!

Messages get lost (need to remember to "star" messages; and then look at your starred messages)