

# PANEL DISCUSSION ON AUTOMATED GRADING

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A few instructors have used some kind of software tool to assist in the task of evaluating student programming assignments. Yet, the use of such tools is far from widespread, despite the impossibility of thorough, valid, reliable assessment without them. No repository of such systems exists, nor do such systems themselves exist for many popular instructional computing platforms. This panel should be a step at sharing experiences with such systems, compiling a catalog of the systems that are available, and assessing interest in developing, enhancing, and widely disseminating them.

Each of the four members of the panel will discuss an area of automated grading related to their personal experiences in the area.

David Kay will give an overview of the automated grading area. He will discuss the need for such tools and how they can improve student programming and testing by more thoroughly checking each student program. He will also discuss how the use of such a tool can improve and make more efficient the teaching of programming by the instructor.

Peter Isaacson will discuss a method he has used to check student programs on the 386 platform. Terry Scott will discuss the writing and use of such a tool using a shell script on a UNIX operating system. Ken Reek will describe the TRY system which he has developed. Each author will describe their system, its advantages and disadvantages, experiences they have had with their system, and improvements that might be made.

After the presentations, the members of the panel will discuss several important issues in the area of automated grading of programs. A partial list of these will include: desirable features of such a software tool, should a catalog of such programs be established and if so how should it be set up and disseminated. It is hoped that this discussion will foster interest from the audience as well as some ideas. There should also be time to discuss and answer questions.