The Anonymous Final Survey: Student Opinions

1. **Should this class be made into a regularly-offered graduate-level class? If so, what should be different? If not, why not? (discuss)**

   Yes: 12, Maybe: 1, No: 1

   From "yes" camp:

   - Probably every two years or so (4)
   - No mini project, maybe an exam instead?
   - include some database papers as well?
   - Good to have more courses like this
   - Wish it had been a core course
   - More discussion in class
   - Maybe more information on industry standards
   - More assignments, and a short review of each paper?
   - Yes, but change topic to storage in general
   - Yes, but a more general readings course
   - Include a "social outing"
   - Have people from industry come by

   From "maybe" camp:

   - Depends on roster of graduate students.

   From "no" camp:

   - too specific.
   - more formality required (too casual?)
   - but, might be cool to have something other than 736.

2. **What topics did we not cover that we should have? Similarly, were some topics covered in too much detail?**

   - too many similar wide-area papers (3)
   - more industrial focus/real systems like NetApp (3)
   - more general fault tolerance and distributed systems (2)
   - more networking (2)
   - more/better security (2)
   - too many NASD papers (2)
   - less background
   - more like autoraid/tickertaip
   - more active components?
   - just fine
   - no clue

   John and Tim wanted more about ILFS and Nest, respectively.

3. **Should there be a mini-project? If so, is 'workload' a good topic? (Other possible mini-project topics: measurement of modern disks, understanding of low-level SCSI protocols, etc.)**

   Yes: 8, No: 4

   From "yes" camp:

   - Yes, maybe two
   - Maybe somehow make mini part of final project (2)
   - More directed is better (2)
   - More topics to choose from
   - Closer to the main topic of the course
   - All topics are fine, but boring
   - In context of net-attached

   From "no" camp:

   - Ask instead about final project progress
   - More lightweight
   - Felt tacked on/poorly integrated

4. **Should there be a final project? What could be done to improve the final project process? (more time devoted to project, must write a final paper, or the more intriguing idea of having the whole class build ONE system together)**

   Yes: all.

   From the "Yes" camp:

   - Decide earlier on topic/more time to do it (10)
   - Want to write final paper (3)
   - Just a final talk is much better/no paper is just fabulous (3)
   - One large system might be interesting (3)
   - One large system would be doomed to failure
   - Offer credit to business school to be project manager
   - Maybe don't allow students to submit outside research as their project

5. **How often should class meet? One or two times a week, or three times a week early in the semester, and once a week late in the semester, or (fill in your favorite option)? (zero times/week is not an option)**

   2 times/week: 11

   - perfect, don't change it
   - more stable reading schedule

   3/week early and 1/week later: 3

   1 time/week: 1

6. **How should class be structured? (Current form: basic lecture plus encouraged student participation) Some other alternatives: round-table discussion with a different discussion leader each time, round-table discussion with professor as leader each time, round-table discussion with no leader at all, each student lectures once or twice, or (fill in your favorite alternative). What could be different/better? What did you like about the current form?**

   - Current form is fine (10)
   - Current form is fine if Remzi is teaching
   - More discussion might be nice
   - Maybe email thoughts and questions to class list to provoke discussion
   - Student-led discussions would be good, maybe half of the time
   - Expert thing could have been more utilized
   - Should quiet students be encouraged to speak more often?
   - In general, we (students) are no good at leading discussion
   - Round-table with professor as leader of discussion

Paper	Liked	Hated
Intro to Disks		
High-B/W Storage Arch	1	
Scaling with NASD	2	
TCP		
U-Net	2	
VISA		
Self-Scaling I/O	2	
Availability Benchmarks	3	
FS Workloads		3
Disk Scheduling	2	1
Capacity/Performance	1	
Anticipatory Scheduling	5	
OceanStore		4
PAST	1	
CFS		
LBFS	7	
SLEDs	1	1
Informed Prefetching	2	
Disk-directed I/O	1	4
NetApp		1
Petal	6	
Zebra	3	
Frangipani	4	
Active Storage		2
Self-Securing Storage		2
Security for NASD		3
Fail-Stutter	6	
ROC	6	2
Recursive Restart	6	
NASD		1

7. **Of the following papers (listed on the next pages), please comment on which you enjoyed the most, and which you enjoyed the least. You may rank them as well, or circle those you liked, or whatever (the more information provided, the better).**

   - CFS/PAST together were too much (2)
   - Oceanstore was terrible (2)
   - Dealing with failures was the most interesting stuff
   - Garth Gibson was the author too frequently
   - More on active storage
   - As important as security is, I wasn't interested in it
   - Really, everything that I hoped for!