

HALF PRESENTATION

On Monday, we gave our Half Presentation to faculty, students, and guests of the ETC. We were pleased to host Joel Levin from MinecraftEdu, the Minecraft Teacher himself, for our presentation. We gave a high-level overview of our project, and delved into detail on what we're now terming our Lesson Review Tool, which includes our modified version of Minecraft X-Ray and a statistics tool. The statistics tool tracks blocks removed, placed, and destroyed (removing blocks placed by others). We also gave an update on the Quiz Blocks the programmers have been working on – answers

from the Quiz Block will also feed into the Review Tool.

On the non-programming side, we discussed the user interface redesign we did for the existing MinecraftEdu launcher and server tool. In addition, we talked about our K-12 curriculum map, briefly touched on other lessons that teachers have made in Minecraft or MinecraftEdu, and then talked about our own proof-of-concept lessons that we've been developing to play-test with teachers and students in a real classroom scenario.

JOEL'S VISIT

Joel visited Monday and Tuesday – so he gave us a few pointers for our Half Presentation, as well as valuable feedback on the lessons we've been developing. We hadn't yet tested them outside the room, so it was incredibly useful to hear the views of a teacher who's often used this in real classroom situations, and he suggested some changes to make.

It was also great to share with Joel what the Entertainment Technology Center is all about, as he was able to tour the build-

ing, see other student groups present, and visit with some of the faculty. It's interesting to note that despite working together for months now, he wasn't aware that we all worked together in the same room all day – it's funny how such a simple detail never came up in our many previous conversations. Joel's physical visit allowed us to share our cultures and personality with each other in a way that's impossible over Skype and email, and I think will only help us collaborate in the latter half of the project.

ELIZABETH FORWARD MIDDLE SCHOOL VISIT



Wednesday, we hosted four teachers from Elizabeth Forward Middle School – these were the same teachers we had play-tested with in February. Again, we got to tour them through the ETC and they stuck around for the continuing Halves Presentations – it was thrilling to see how excited they were by the space, and how excited they thought their students would be here.

More importantly, we ran them through our lessons and got more feedback from them about how we could tailor our lessons to better fit their classes, content, and teaching style. We also ironed out the details of our playtests with their students next week.

We'll be at Elizabeth Forward Middle School next Wednesday and Friday, play-testing with two classes each day. We'll be testing with each of the teachers actual classes during their normal class periods, so these will be four completely different groups of 20+ students.

The rest of our week has been spent refining our lessons and writing up their associated documentation for teachers and students. Meanwhile, programmers have continued working on the Quiz Block, while also working to make sure that we'll have the proper files for metadata tracking during our tests. With that, we'll be able to take our test sessions and go over them with the Lesson Review tool. We'll be play-testing the Lesson Review Tool with teachers once it's in a user-friendly state.