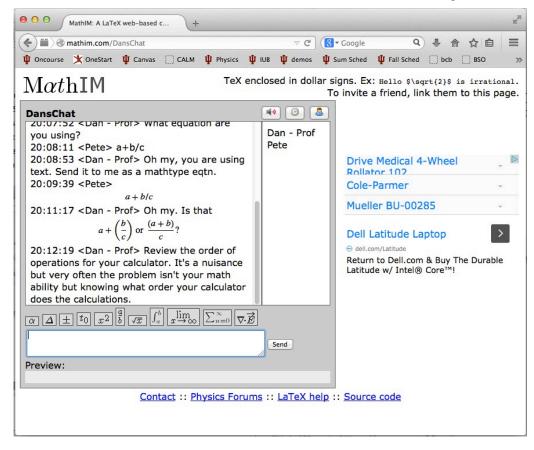
Homework Help Using a Web-Based Chat Room with an Equation Editor by Dan Beeker, Indiana University

Why don't we have equations in chat rooms?

We should we care?



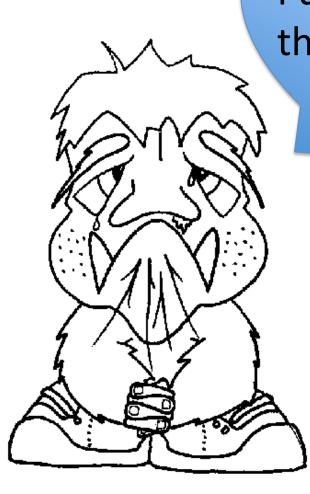
Where it started.

P105 Version of "Gone with the Wind"



Photo Warner Brothers Studios

Background – the problem



I understand
the theory. I just
can't do the
problems!

Translates to: Weak math skills.

Background – the solution:

I understand the theory. I just can't do the problems!

I can help. Meet me in the chat room!



Alas



- Character based chat rooms did not work well for helping students with basic math issues.
- Trivial Example: A + B / C ≠ (A + B)/
 C ☺
- What to do?

Eureka! – Or so I briefly thought.



- Web surfing I found MathIM.Com
- Open source. That's good.
- But the site required Latex knowledge to be really functional. : (
 No way can I ask a trombone major to learn Latex (though most Music majors are darn smart! – and fun to teach!)
- Again, what to do?

Enter MathType: The (temporary) solution



- I found I could cut and paste from MathType into MathIM chat rooms.
- ~\$40 per student license is too expensive.
- Enter the departmental license. Works out to less than \$1.50 per student.
- Not a panacea but it is workable.

Let's try it!



MathIM.com

Demo the application online. Note, MathType Preferences should be set to Blackboard for Sakai chatroom. May be different for other applications/chat rooms.

For more information contact Dan Beeker at debeeker@indiana.edu

