



Steven Halim

Dept of Computer Science
School of Computing

I believe that for my students to study well and absorb as many technical computing concepts as possible from my modules, they first need to be interested in the subject matter covered in my modules. Therefore, I need to show them that I have a deep interest and passion in the subjects (algorithm and programming) that I teach. This is actually an effortless process as I am very passionate about these subjects.

I use VisuAlgo, a visualization and animation tool (<http://visualgo.net>) which helps to bring these classroom examples to life. They present a more effective alternative to static PowerPoint slides, and my students can focus on understanding the lecture content instead of just taking notes. I also use as many real-life examples as possible when illustrating an algorithmic concept to make the purpose of algorithms applicable to my students' daily life.

When it comes to giving continuous assessment, some of the strategies I apply include the gamification system to keep students interested in the subject. Students are given interesting problem sets with various possible solutions, which they can discuss with their peers as long as they code the solutions themselves. They receive quick, almost instantaneous grading via an online judge (<http://algorithmics.comp.nus.edu.sg/~mooshak>). In addition, I use the online quiz function on VisuAlgo to check my students' basic understanding of various lecture and tutorial topics.

What Students Say...

"Able to give us examples of the implementations of the algorithms in real life. Always willing to help students by conducting some extra sessions. Trains us to think critically and creatively to improve our problem solving skills."

"Dr Steven is a passionate and dedicated professor who puts in a lot of effort to ensure that his students are taught the material well. He goes beyond his role as a lecturer in getting to know his students. He is constantly fine-tuning his teaching style in order to improve himself as an educator."