

- **Question #1:** Many of us have used direct instruction in our instructional design. Share an example in which you incorporated cooperative learning opportunities into a direct instruction model. If you have never incorporated cooperative learning strategies in a direct instruction model, please provide an example in which cooperative learning strategies could be effectively employed in a direct instruction lesson plan.

When I was teaching Cisco classes at MSJC, I used to lecture and demonstrate router configuration concepts and then organize the students into groups to complete their assignments. This was mainly due to that fact that we had a limited amount of routers to use in the classroom for student assignments. I constantly received complaints from students that they felt they were not getting enough hands-on time with the equipment. I don't teach the Cisco classes anymore and in the Microsoft classes I now teach each student has their own computer. Because of the complaints I got in the Cisco classes I decided it would be better to have the Microsoft students each do their own system configurations. The drawback to that is that the assignments are cumulative, that is each new assignment builds on the previous one, so if a student misses a class they have to get caught up before they can complete that night's assignment. I have experimented with cooperative learning in other classes like my Web development classes, but haven't had much success. In those cases students accomplished less and usually it was one or two students that did most of the work while the others stood by and watched.

- **Question #2:** Do you balance your checkbook regularly? If so, have you ever caught any banking errors? Have you ever made reconciliation errors?

Before online banking I used to balance my checkbook monthly. In those days, money was tight and balancing a checkbook was important for ensuring I knew how much money I had in the account and that I didn't overdraft it; especially my business accounts. These days, with the advent of online banking, I can always view my current balance online so I don't worry anymore about balancing my checkbooks. Even when I was reconciling my checking accounts I only found errors that I made and never found a bank originated error, so I feel I can trust their accounting methods. I still maintain a check register for each of my accounts, but that is mainly for locating business expenses when I'm doing my taxes.