Extension: Using CSV Upload to Create Classes

UoN Coding & STEAM 2019

# Introduction

In the *Managing Classes with Scratch Teacher Accounts* activity, you learned about three different approaches for creating *Student Accounts*. Each of these approaches has its advantages and its disadvantages, and the one that works best for you will really depend on your individual classrooms and your students' proficiency with digital technologies.

We will give an example of an approach for utilising the *CSV Upload* approach to create a *Class* of *Student Accounts* that we have used in workshops with teachers in the past, that could also be used with your students.

# Which Way Do We Recommend Adding Students?

Firstly, we use a programming language, such as *Scratch*, to create a list of random *usernames* and *passwords*. You can see an example of a *Scratch* program creates random *usernames* and *passwords* on the program website, by following the [Student Account Creator Example in Scratch](https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/163476162/) link on the *Week 2* page of the program website, under the *Teacher Account Links* heading.

After creating the list of random *usernames* and *passwords* and saving them to a csv file, we would then use the steps in the *Create and Upload a CSV File for New Student Accounts* section of this activity to create the *Student Accounts*.

We would then put the list of *usernames* and *passwords* into a spreadsheet program, such as *Excel*, and add *student names* and *email addresses* next to each of the *usernames* and *passwords*. An example of the resulting table (with two *Student Accounts*) in the spreadsheet program is given below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Teacher Name** | **Email Address** | **Scratch Account Name** | **Current Password** |
| Daniel Deckchair | daniel.deckchair@example.com | GreenFrog2\_CS4S | helloworld1 |
| Benjamin Button | benjamin.button@example.com | BlueCat4\_CS4S | helloworld2 |

After creating this table, we would then give the teachers their *username* and *password* details. The details could be sent to the teachers through email (for example: by using a *mail merge*) or printed out on bits of paper. Each of the teachers would then be able to log in to their newly created *Student Account* and view the *Class* you created.

There are two main reasons that we recommend using an approach for creating *Student Accounts* that is like the one outlined above:

* By having random *usernames*, you avoid any issues where students create their own *usernames* that contain names or words that identify their personal details
* For classes with 20 or more students, it may take less time to create a spreadsheet, put the usernames and passwords into a csv file, and upload that file than the time it would take to add the students one by one with the *+ New Student* button