Title: Surviving and thriving on online collaborative, Q&A sites: Studying badges and feedback effects on Stack Overflow

Abstract: Badges and feedback in the form of votes, comments, acceptance and rejection are important mechanisms used in the service of reaching and retaining user participation. This is an examination of the impact of these mechanisms on the survival and activity of contributors and readers in the leading Q&A sites on the Stack Exchange network. In the work led by my PhD. student, Benny Bornfeld, we analyze over ten years of user behavior, in multiple Stack communities, to test theories about the role and effects of gamification and Interactivity.