

Web Resource 2: LazStat

In an attempt to find a web resource or software, I did what every student from the 21st century would do: I “Googled” it. I started by searching for “online statistics resources” and after following a few links, I found a program called LazStat. LazStat can be downloaded for free from the website www.statprograms4u.com. The developer, William G. Miller, will also send you a copy of the program on a CD if one is requested. The program only took about 3 minutes to download but the CD only costs \$30 and may be more realistic if a teacher needs to load the program onto several computers. The website also has a download for a similar program called OpenStat. OpenStat and LazStat are very similar programs. I believe the main difference is that LazStat can be used on Windows and Macs but OpenStat can only be used on Windows operating computers.

The program can do an extensive amount of analyses such as basic descriptive statistics, X vs Y scatter plot and regression, box plots, and other more sophisticated forms of analysis. It can also perform simulations and calculate probabilities. Some of the menus are confusing. I tried to construct a simple box plot but I repeatedly got an error message and was never able to successfully create one. The program does come with an extensive user guide that is available at the program’s website but the guide was not particularly helpful when I was trying to construct the box plot. Another down side of the program is that it does use some programming language (i.e. float, string, etc.) that a student may not be familiar with but those terms are all ones students could understand with some explanation.

LazStat could be used in a variety of statistics activities in any high school statistics class. In the GPS curriculum, the LazStat could be used in the data analysis and probability standards in Math 4. These standards involve simulation, confidence intervals, and using technology to explore these topics.

Overall, the benefits of this program are that it is free and downloads very quickly. This would allow easy downloads on school programs or on a student's personal computer, if needed. It also creates a sheet with the calculations it computed that would be easy to print. The biggest downside is that some of the menus and language used are confusing. The program does come with a user guide but it isn't always helpful.