Carl Stitz and Jeff Zeager have spent a fair amount of the last five years writing and editing an open-source Precalculus book. In this talk the authors give a brief history of their project and then share the lessons they’ve learned the hard way. Specific topics include the benefits of our partnership with WebAssign, the importance of understanding state-level course transfer policies and, as the titles suggests, why prospective authors and adopters of open-source materials need to avoid “Imperial entanglements”. Anecdotes about fighting with LaTeX, arguing about the definition of local maximum and choosing a font for the upcoming 4th edition should keep this talk from becoming as tedious as editing the index of a 1100-page Precalculus book. (There’s a story about that, too.) (Received September 15, 2013)