CSE/ISE 300 Writing  F08

• Time: Tue 12:50-1:45PM
• Location: Room 154  Light Engineering
• Required Books: The Elements of Style, 4th edition (2000), Authors: Strunk and White $10 (or $4 2007 reprint by Coyote)
• Online Technical Writing, Author: David A. McMurrey http://www.io.com/~hcexres/textbook/
• Instructor: Professor Larry Wittie
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• Office Hours: 2:00-3:30PM Tue & Thu or by appointment
• Course Homepage: http://www.cs.sunysb.edu/~cse300

• Today, draft overview to 5+ page paper 3 memo on My Code in class.
• Make sure your print and identical e-copies are properly formatted.
• Graded memo2 back next Tuesday, New Computer.
CSE/ISE 300
More Advice from Appendix B

Complement/Compliment
Complement is a verb (or noun) meaning *(that which)* make(s) complete.
Compliment is a verb (or noun) meaning praise.
   We have a full *complement* of experts for the project.
   The skills of a husband and wife often *complement* each other.
   {The word *complement* contains the letters of *complete.*}
   I like *compliments*. I *compliment* you on your stunning shoes.
   {The word *compliment* contains an *i.*}

Continuous/Continual
Continuous means unceasing, without ever stopping.
Continual means repeated regularly, repeated after stopping.
   The snow was *continuous* from 3 pm to midnight yesterday.
   My clock loses a few minutes per month. I habitually and *continually* check it against the time from the radio news station.

Criteria is the plural of the Greek word *criterion*, not *criterions*.
The main *criteria* for selecting best shoes were comfort, utility, and style. The most important *criterion* was comfort.
More Advice from Appendix B

**Data** is a plural, the plural of the Latin word **datum**, not **datums**. The data show the effectiveness of rimonabant (pronounced re-moan-a-bant) for weight loss.

**Due to / Because of**

**Due to** starts an adjective phrase that means “attributable to.” It must modify a noun, pronoun, or noun phrase. Usually it follows a form of the verb “to be.” It cannot mean the same as a prepositional (and usually adverbal) phrase beginning with because of, owing to, or as a result of.

The cracks in the sidewalk are due to expansion on hot days. (Not: The cracks in the sidewalk are due to too few expansion joints.)

The sidewalk is cracked because it does not have expansion joints every three feet.

The sidewalk is cracked because of too few expansion joints.
English
The articles (adjectives) *a*, *an*, and *the*.
The indefinite (no specific one) articles are *a* and *an*. The rarer form *an* is used only before words that start with a vowel sound.
   *An* hour (pronounced like our) before sunrise is *an* excellent start time.
   *A* ewe (pronounced like you or U) is *a* female sheep.

The definite article *the* is used to refer to a specific noun (or pronoun).
   *An* hour before sunrise is *the* best time to start.
   Dolly was *the* first cloned sheep. She was *a* ewe.
   Joan was *the* first person across the finish line.

**Singular** versus **plural**
In a clause or sentence, subject and verb must agree in number. For subjects connected by *or*, the closest subject and the verb must agree.
   *We* are here. *He* is there. *He and I* are leaving now. The players or the *coach* selects the most valuable player. The cow or the *sheep* are in the meadow.
Farther/Further
Both refer to longer distances, but farther refers to actual physical distances; further refers to other distances or it means “additional.”

{In Texan, a “fur piece down the road” means a “great distance”, not a mink shawl.} 
In 15 minutes, Tom can run a mile farther than Bill. 
After I left, Kasia read 20 pages further in her book on owls. 
Please give further evidence that stress increases allergic reactions.
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Paper 3 Code Documentation

The final and major paper for this course will be due 25 Nov. It counts for 55% of the cumulative grade, which will determine the final course grade of A, B, C, or F. A passing grade is mandatory for graduation. (Talk to me about alternatives to a code paper.)

Your paper 3 must be five to six prose text pages of effective final documentation for a significantly large program that you have written. The code should be 100 to 600 lines that you personally have written and must be included as an appendix to your paper. All the rules for what counts as text in the first two papers apply for paper 3. The code in the appendix and any code quoted in the body of your paper do not count in the minimum of five pages.

Your prose must be interesting to read but must explain your code carefully enough that another professional can take responsibility for it and easily make changes to maintain and improve it.
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Suggestions for Paper 3 Contents

In grading paper3, I expect to see a number of factual details that will help whatever programmer has to modify your code:

What are the code’s major function, its inputs, and its results?
Who wrote the code, for what initial purpose, and when?
How thoroughly was the code tested and with what input data (an appendix should list one or more complete test sets)?
Tersely, what are the major algorithms and data structures? (Do not enumerate every module, like every tree in a forest.)
What are the major limitations of the code, its internal data structures, and any data structures assumed for its inputs?
What code parts do not yet work? What is needed to fix them?
What portions of the code are particularly tricky and may cause undesired side effects if changed hastily?
What changes would you have made to the code if you had had more time to work on it? Why would they have improved it?
What special advice do you give anyone changing the code?