CSE/ISE300 Communications S13

- Location: Room 2205 Computer Science, 2nd floor, Multimedia Lab
- Time: Tue/Thur 5:30-6:50PM
- Free Online Web book: *Technical Writing*, by David McMurrey
- Instructor: **Professor Larry Wittie**
- Office/Lab: Room 1308 Computer Science, 1st floor, Network Lab
- Office Hours: 3:55-5:25pm Tu/Th, if 1308 door is ajar, or by appointment
- Phone: 632-8750 (not 2-8456)
- Email: lw@ic.sunysb.edu or larry.wittie@stonybrook.edu, not both
- Course Homepage: [http://www.cs.sunysb.edu/~lw/teaching/cse300](http://www.cs.sunysb.edu/~lw/teaching/cse300)

*Return of graded paper 3 drafts. Midterm: the last week in April.*
1. I use the paragraph mark ¶ (pilcrow symbol) to say “Separate sentences here to start a new paragraph”.
2. Avoid vague words like “nice” and non-specific phrases like “a lot of” and “another university”.
3. Avoid abrupt transitions between paragraphs
4. Avoid repeated thoughts, words, and phrases.
5. Do not use any contractions, no don’t, no can’t, and no it’s.
6. Avoid sentences starting with “So”, “Thus”, and “Also”.
7. Avoid most uses of “due to” and all that mean “because of”.
8. Avoid lack of organization. Have sentences that fit together into paragraphs (and sections with section headers, in longer papers).
9. Read, edit, and re-read what you write, preferably after a night of sleep the last time.
CSE/ISE 300
Paper 3 Code Documentation

The final and major paper for this course will be due Tues 7 May, both a printed version submitted at start of class and a single source file (doc or docx) email to lw@ic… with the Subject: line containing 300 paper 3 code. Paper 3 counts for 30% of your cumulative score, which will determine your final course grade of A, B, C, or F. A passing grade is mandatory for graduation.

Your paper 3 must be four 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 four 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.
CSE/ISE 300

Size Requirements for Paper3

Paper 3 must be at least 4 pages long, excluding lines that do not contain English prose text written by you and excluding the appendices. To be safe on length, aim for 5 pages with about 150 counted lines in 12 font and 1,800 to 2,200 words that count.

Remember that only prose lines written by you count - not tables of contents, tables of figures, section headers, figures, tables, captions for figures or tables, numbered or bulleted lists, blank lines, quoted text, reference to sources, the title for your paper, or your name. Maximum length of text part of paper is 10 pages, including uncounted items. Appendix must not exceed 8 pages: code in appendix may be in a tiny font and 2 or 3 columns. Number code lines; single-space your code. Combine the text and appendix parts of paper 3 into a single .docx file.

However, most of the non-counted items can make your paper more interesting to read and improve your grade. Full text lines must be at least 6 inches wide and contain an average 12 to 15 words. Each full page must have 30 or more lines (whether or not counted) spaced by 1.5, not single-spaced and not double-spaced. Number all pages.
Suggestions for Paper 3 Contents

In grading paper3, I expect to see a number of factual details that will help a programmer if she 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?
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, of its internal data structures, and of any structures assumed for its input data?
How thoroughly was the code tested and with what input data (an appendix should list one or more complete test sets)?
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 more time to work on it? Why would the changes have improved it?
What special advice do you give anyone changing the code?
Remember to end your paper with a Conclusions paragraph, followed by an Appendix with all the Code and precise References to all your sources.
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Main Parts of Paper 3: 4/2 In-Class Outline

Working Title for Your Paper
Your Name  Today’s date

What was your code’s main function?
What were its inputs and its results?
What programming language did you use?

Who wrote the code (you or you as part of a team?),
for what initial purpose or course, and when?

Short outline: what major algorithms and data structures?

   Plus short paragraphs on these topics.

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 more time to work on it? Why would they have improved it?

What special advice do you have for anyone changing the code?
CSE/ISE 300
Comments on Paper3 Drafts: Back 4/23
Relaxed Spacing Rules for Appendix Code Pages

Use:
1. Margins maybe as small as 0.75” on all four edges
2. Single spacing for lines of code
3. Sans-serif mono-width font, such as Monaco, for code.
4. Different fonts for text words and code_names on report lines
5. Numbers on all lines of code, including comments, in appendix
6. Numbers for all pages of both paper report and appendix
7. Multiple columns & small font sizes to fit code into 8 pages max
8. Column separators as narrow as 0.1” (0.1 inch)
CSE/ISE 300

Paper3 Code Document Structure Sample

By Friday 26 April, send a single source file (doc or docx) email to lw@ic… with the Subject: line containing 300 paper 3 sample. From paper3 include only:

1. The title, your name, and date
2. The first paragraph – abstract or introduction
3. Each section header in the order within your paper3
4. The concluding paragraph
5. The first two pages of your appendix code
6. The number of pages of code in total

We will return comments on the structure of your paper by Tuesday, 4/30.
CSE/ISE 300
Font Samples for Paper 3 Code in Text.

Helvetica
The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

Times
The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

Andale Mono
The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

Courier
The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

Courier New
The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

Monaco
The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

Today a sample grade-A coding paper from 2012.
I will merge its pdf with today’s slides on web.