CSE/ISE300 Communications S14

- Location: Room 2205 Computer Science, 2nd floor, Multimedia Lab
- Time: Tue/Thur 5:30-6:50PM
- Free Online Webbook: Technical Writing, by David McMurrey
  http://www.prismnet.com/~hcexres/textbook/
- Instructor: Professor Larry Wittie
- Office/Lab: Room 1308 Computer Science, 1st floor, Network Lab
- Office Hours: 4:10-5:25+7-7:15pm Tu/Th, if door is ajar, or by appointment
- Phone: 632-8750 (not 2-8456)
- Email: larry.wittie@stonybrook.edu
- Course Homepage: http://www.cs.sunysb.edu/~lw/teaching/cse300
The final and major paper for this course will be due Thursday 8 May, both a printed version submitted at start of class and a single source file (doc or docx) email to larry.wittie@stonybrook.edu with the Subject: line containing 300 paper 3 code. Paper 3 counts for 30% of your cumulative numeric score, which will determine your final course grade of A, B, C, or F. A passing grade is mandatory for graduation.

No Penalty if submitted by Thursday 5/8/14 start of class.
Warnings on Four Page Paper3 Samples - 1

{bold, center} Meaningful Paper3 Title  {larger font}
Your Name    4/25/2014

{At the top}  Appendix  {of new page}

The appendix must be 8 pages or fewer. Number every code line. Single-space all code in the Appendix; the code may be in a tiny font with 2 columns per page line.

Use present tense verbs for what code does. Use past tense verbs only for what you did in writing the code (in the past).

The reader of Paper3 is a programmer trying to understand your code. After the first paragraph, keep your history and your feelings out of Paper3. Paper3 is about the code.
Warnings on Four Page Paper3 Samples - 2

Space text lines consistently **1.5-line spacing**, not single spaced, not double spaced. Avoid special paragraph spacing of 0.5, 1.08, or 1.15 multiple line spacing plus 8, 10, 12 pts extra after each text line.

Omit any **colon (:)** at the end of a section header.

Capitalize section headers consistently with a capital letter starting **Each Major Word in a Header**.

Make section headers in **Bold or Underlined Fonts**.
A Working Title for Your Paper
Your Name 4/17/2014

Error if in four sections
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?

Combine into one INTRODUCTION paragraph
Only the first two or three sentences.

Use present tense verbs for what code does. Use past tense verbs only for what you did in writing the code (in past).
ERRORS in One Page Paper3 Outline - 2

Full text lines must be 6 inches wide, not 6.5 or 7 inches.
Main report text lines must be 1.5-spaced, not single-spaced and not double-spaced.
Main report text in 12-font, not 11-font and not 14-font.
Text words in an easily read font, like Times New Roman or Cambria, not Garamond.

Code lines in a mono-width font, like Monaco or Andale Mono or Courier.
Appendix code lines must be numbered & single-spaced.

Your final report must be well-organized into sections with HEADERS every two to four paragraphs.
Number all pages in Paper3 sample and final version.

Do not just describe your code in vague terms. Tell the reader how its major parts are organized, what parts of the code not yet working well, and how safely to modify parts that have bugs or tricky code with non-obvious dependences with other code sections (side-effects).

Avoid vague titles for your report. Instead of Web Design say Electronics Website.
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CSE/ISE 300
Notes from Classroom Writing - S14

1. Avoid vague words like “nice” and non-specific phrases like “a lot of” and “another university”.
2. Avoid abrupt transitions between paragraphs
3. Avoid repeated thoughts, words, and phrases.
4. Do not use any contractions, no don’t, no can’t, and no it’s.
5. Avoid sentences starting with “So”, “Thus”, and “Also”.
6. Avoid sentences starting with “I think that” or “I believe”.
7. Avoid most uses of “due to” and all that mean “because of”.
8. Avoid “in order to”. Use “to”. Avoid “etc” plus “and so on”.
9. Avoid lack of organization. Have sentences that fit together into paragraphs (and sections with section headers, in long papers).
10. Read, edit, and re-read what you write, preferably after a night of sleep before the final editing pass.
CSE/ISE 300

Paper 3 Code Documentation

Your paper 3 must be four to six prose text pages of effective final documentation for a significantly large program that you personally have written. The code should be **100 to 600 lines** that you created 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 paper must be interesting to read but also must be well organized. It must explain your code so clearly that it can help another professional improve your code.
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 of text in 12 font and 1,950 to 2,400 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, references to sources, the title for your paper, or your name.
CSE/ISE 300
More Requirements for Paper 3

The maximum length of paper3’s text part is 10 pages, including uncounted items. The appendix must not exceed 8 pages: code in the appendix may be in a tiny font and 2 or 3 columns. Number code lines; single-space your code. Combine all parts of paper3 into a single .docx or .doc file.

Many non-counted text items can make your paper more interesting to read, better organized, and graded higher. Full text lines must be 6 inches wide and on average hold 13 to 16 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.
CSE/ISE 300
Relaxed Spacing Rules for Appendix Code Page

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
Font Samples for Paper3 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.

Monaco
The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.
In grading paper3, I expect to see many 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 the formats assumed for its input data?

How thoroughly was the code tested and with what input data (your appendix should list one or more complete test sets)?
Suggestions for End of Paper 3

What code parts do not yet work? What may 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? How would the changes improve 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 for Paper3.
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