

SE 4C03 Winter 2006
Research Project (100 pts.)

Instructor: William M. Farmer

Revised: 31 January 2006

The purpose of the research project is to investigate an important topic or new technology in networking or security and then present the technology to the class and the instructor. The topic or technology may involve hardware, software, or theory.

The project will consist of two parts:

1. A proposal for what topic or technology to investigate.
2. A highly concise written presentation of the topic or technology.

The proposal is a paper of exactly one page (12 pt. font, single spaced, 1.5 in. left and right margins, 1 in. top and bottom margins) containing the following information:

1. A heading consisting of the title of the project, the name of the researcher, the course title “SE 4C03 Winter 2006”, and the date of the last revision.
2. A section entitled “Objective” which states the topic or technology you would like to investigate.
3. A section entitled “Approach” which describes how your investigation will be carried out and what products (e.g., the written presentation) you will produce.
4. A section entitled “Impact” which states what benefits (e.g., to you, the class, and instructor) are expected to result from the project.

The proposal is worth 20 points and must be submitted to the instructor **no later than 11:30 (the beginning of class) on Friday, March 3.**

The written presentation is a two-page paper (12 pt. font, single spaced, 1.5 in. left and right margins, 1 in. top and bottom margins). The paper should be a creative, informative, interesting, and concise presentation of your research results—something a busy, technically savvy person would want to read. It should include the following information:

1. A heading consisting of the title of the project, the name of the researcher, the course title “SE 4C03 Winter 2006”, and the date of the last revision.
2. References to relevant sources of information.

The class is the intended audience; knowledge about networking and information security learned in class may be assumed. All sources of information used in the paper must be clearly and accurately referenced. Plagiarism will be treated as academic dishonesty.

A printed copy of the paper must be submitted to the instructor **no later than 11:30 (the beginning of class) on Friday, March 28**. A copy of the paper in PDF format must be submitted via e-mail to Reza Sherafat at sherafr@mcmaster.ca **no later than midnight on Friday, March 28**. The PDF copy will be posted at

<http://www.cas.mcmaster.ca/~wmfarmer/SE-4C03-03/project/>

The paper is worth 80 points. The points will be awarded according to the following scheme: 20 for command of the subject and references, 20 for organization and balance, 20 for appearance and readability, and 20 for overall effectiveness. Recognition will be given to the five best papers on the basis of an assessment made by the members of the class.