

SE 4C03 Winter 2007

Research Project (100 pts.)

Instructor: William M. Farmer

Revised: 8 February 2007

The purpose of this research project is to create a wiki on networking and security for McMaster software engineering students. Each SE 4C03 student will choose an important topic in networking or security, investigate the topic, and present the topic as a page in a wiki. The topic may involve hardware, software, or theory. The networking and security wiki will be extended by future SE 4C03 students.

The project will consist of two parts:

1. A proposal for what topic to investigate.
2. A wiki page presentation of the topic.

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 2007”, and the date of the last revision.
2. A section entitled “Objective” which states the topic 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 wiki page) 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 9:30 (the beginning of class) on Thursday, March 1.**

The wiki page presentation is an HTML file that is equivalent to about two pages of text. It should be a creative, informative, interesting, and

concise presentation of your research results—something a busy, technically savvy person would want to read. Model your wiki page on a Wikipedia page. It should contain the following components:

1. The title of your topic. The title should be as short as possible.
2. An untitled introductory section that gives an overview of the topic. This is the most important component of the wiki page.
3. An image related to your topic.
4. A “Contents” section that lists the rest of the components of the page.
5. Other sections that expand upon the information given in the introductory section.
6. A “References” section consisting of a numbered list of relevant books and articles.
7. A “See also” section with links to your fellow students’ wiki pages.
8. An “External links” section with links to other web sites.
9. The main developer of the page (you) and a list of anyone else who contributed to it.
10. The date of the last revision.

The intended audience for the wiki page should be McMaster software engineering students; basic 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. You may use three kinds of references:

1. A normal HTML link to another wiki page in the networking and security wiki.
2. A normal HTML link to a page on another web site.
3. A reference like “[12]” or “[12,15]” to the references listed in the “References” section.

Plagiarism will be treated as academic dishonesty.

After the middle of March you will be able to upload your wiki page to the wiki directory at

<http://www.cas.mcmaster.ca/~wmfarmer/SE-4C03-07/project/>

A completed first draft must be uploaded no later than 23:59 on March 30. The final draft is due 23:59 on April 6. Between the submissions of the first and final draft you should be reading the other wiki pages and making appropriate links to them in your page.

The wiki page is worth 80 points. 40 points will be awarded by the members of the class. The other 40 points will be awarded by the instructor according to the following scheme: 10 for command of the subject and references, 10 for organization and balance, 10 for appearance and readability, and 10 for overall effectiveness.