

# CS 3CN3 and SE 4C03 Winter 2009

## Research Project

100 pts.

Instructor: William M. Farmer

Revised: 27 February 2009

The purpose of this project is to investigate a topic in computer networking or information security and then present the topic in the form of a wiki page. The project will consist of two parts:

1. A wiki page presentation of the topic (worth 80 pts.).
2. A project report (worth 20 pts.).

**Wiki Page.** The wiki page presentation is a page to be added to the Computing and Software Wiki at

<http://www.cas.mcmaster.ca/wiki/>.

It should be a creative, informative, interesting, and concise presentation of your research results—something a busy, technically savvy person would want to read. You may choose your own topic for the wiki page. However, your topic must be approved by the instructor and should be significantly different from the topics of the wiki pages that are currently on the Computing and Software Wiki. To get your topic approved, send the instructor an e-mail message with the proposed title of your wiki page and a very brief description of the topic.

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 internal links to your fellow students’ wiki pages.
8. An “External links” section with external links to other web sites.
9. Your time-stamped signature at the bottom of the page.

The intended audience for the wiki page should be McMaster computer science and software engineering students; basic knowledge about computer 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. An internal link to other Computing and Software Wiki pages.
2. An external 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.

See the wiki tutorial on the course web site for instructions on how to use the Computing and Software Wiki.

The wiki page is worth 80 points. 40 points will be awarded by the members of the class (by a method that will be specified later). The other 40 points will awarded by the instructor according to the following scheme: 10 for content and command of the subject; 10 for organization, balance, appearance, and readability; 10 for links and references; and 10 for overall effectiveness. **The final version of your wiki page must be posted on the Computing and Software Wiki no later than Sunday, April 12, at 23:59.**

You are not allowed to modify your wiki page between April 12 and April 30. You may freely modify any of the students’ wiki pages, including your own, after April 30.

**Project Report.** The project report 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 in the order given:

1. The title of your project (which should also be the title of your wiki page).
2. Your name, the course title (CS 3CN3 Winter 2009 or SE 4C03 Winter 2009), and the date.
3. A section entitled “Abstract” containing an abstract of your wiki page.
4. A section entitled “Strong Points” containing a short discussion of what are the strong points of your wiki page.
5. A section entitled “Weak Points” containing a short discussion of what are the weak points of your wiki page and how these weak points could be strengthened.
6. A section entitled “Benefits” describing how the project benefited your education.

The project report is worth 20 points. **It must be submitted in hardcopy form to the instructor no later than 8:30 on Monday, April 6 (the beginning of the last class of the term).**