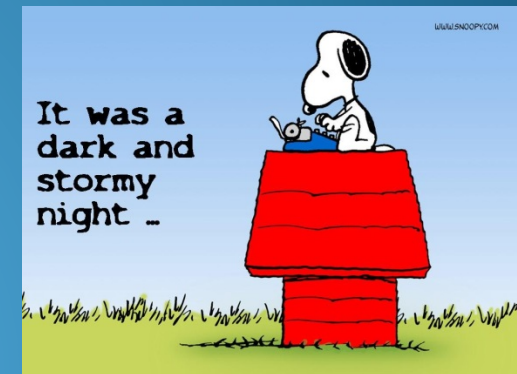




Technical writing in computer systems and networks– DAT147

course introduction

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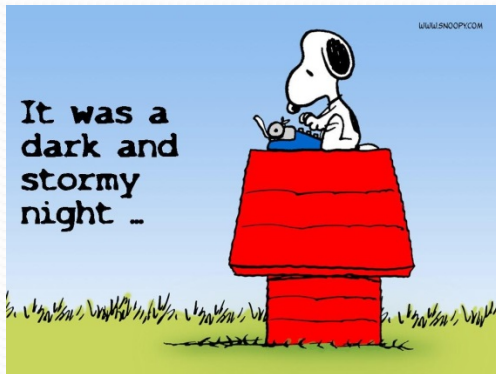


Welcome everybody....

....to the course

“Technical writing in computer systems and networks”

<http://www.cse.chalmers.se/edu/course/DAT147/>



Course objectives

The Technical writing course DAT147 aims to improve proficiency in :

- **writing** scientific research papers
- **reviewing** scientific research papers
- **presenting** scientific papers in public

A secondary goal is to give some **overall technical knowledge** in the Computer Systems and Networks area.

Finally, the course will cover **ethical issues** in general and in particular for the CSN area.



Teachers involved in the course

The course is run by the following people:

- Erland Jonsson (examiner/organiser)
- Linda Bradley (language teacher)
- Supervisors (i.e. technical teachers) –
- names are found on the webpage
- Iosif Salem (Teaching Assistant – “Course assistant”)
- Thomas Petig (Teaching Assistant)

- Elad Schiller (responsible for the ethics part)
- Karl Persson, Christian Munthe (ethics teachers)



Course items

The course contains the following items:

- Two introductory lectures, during which the supervisors present two **paper topics** plus **three existing papers** per topic within a specific research area
- Three lectures/workshops, that covers **reading, writing, reviewing and presenting** technical papers
- Three lectures/workshops in **ethical issues** (This part of the course is handled separately)
- Three seminar sessions during which students **present their papers**

All lectures/workshops and seminar sessions are mandatory



Overview of course activities

Here is a broad view on the course of actions:



- In general: Participate in the **lectures and workshops**
- Listen to **topics'** presentations
- Choose **topic**
- Suggest **additional papers** (to the three suggested by the supervisor)
- Write **synopsis and abstract** and submit it to supervisor
- Write **a survey paper**
- Submit **paper** to Easychair (a conference management system)
- Make **reviews** of two other papers in Easychair



Overview of course activities II

Course of actions (cont'd):

- **Receive reviews** on your paper
- **Revise paper** according to reviews
- Resubmit **paper** to Easychair
- Get **acceptance** of paper
- **Prepare and make presentation**
- **Listen to and comment on** other presentations

There is a **very final deadline** (Nov. 28th) for getting your paper accepted.



The survey paper

- The survey must describe the **topic area**. It must be **based on the three papers** given by the supervisor and the **additional papers** in the same area suggested by the student group
- The **survey** should preferably make some kind of **contribution** to the research area, i.e. result in something more than a mere compilation of data and facts.
- The length of the survey should normally be **between 5000 and 7000 words** (6 to 8 pages in ACM format)



Supervisor obligations

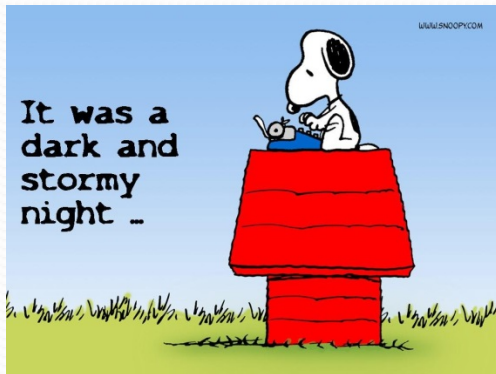
The supervisor (technical teacher) is expected to take on the following tasks:

- Suggest **two topics** (paper titles) within a research area
- Provide links to **three existing papers** that are relevant for each one of the two topics, i.e. six papers per supervisor
- **Present topics** and papers
- **Supervise** the work of **two groups** of students when they write their survey.
- Hold at least **two IRL meetings** per group
- Participate in the **reviewing process** for the two “own” groups and for two additional groups.



Supervisor obligations (cont'd)

- Assist the students when they make their **pre-presentation slides**. Make a final check of the slides
- **Participate in the presentation session**, in which “his/her own” students are presenting and give relevant feedback
- Give viewpoints whether the presentation was **acceptable or not**
- **Pass** the student groups



Teaching assistants' obligations

The teaching assistants (TAs) are expected to take on the following tasks:

- Arrange **grouping of students** into groups of three
- Handle the **topic to group allocation** process
- **Participate in the lectures**
- **Participate in the presentation sessions** and provide relevant feedback
- Plus some general “keeping things in good order”



Start working now!

A message from Linda Bradley, the language teacher:



Before the first language lecture on Sept, 8th, please **read the three survey examples** that can be found on the course homepage!

You do not have to read them in detail. Rather, get acquainted with them, **browse** them and pay attention to how they are **structured**. They will be discussed and further analysed in class.



Finally....



In this course a large number of teachers and TAs are involved. We are all here to help you improve your writing, reading and reviewing skills, something that is of value in a much wider context than computer science.

Do take advantage of this opportunity!

