

Individual Assignment 2 - Req Eng course 2010

The following assignment is mandatory in the course Requirements Engineering, DAT230/DIT276, held at Chalmers. The reports shall be submitted on It's Learning in PDF format. Please note that we present only maximum page limits. If you are able to write shorter, we welcome and encourage this. References may extend to one or more pages in addition to the presented maximum number of pages.

Assignment: Individual assignment 2 - SEMAT

Description: This is a non-graded but mandatory assignment that shall be solved individually

Outcome: Written report

Max page limit: 3 pages

Report format:

- IEEE Conference Proceedings format, details on course home page.
- Proper and complete references to all supporting books/papers/info!
- Plagiarism will yield an immediate FAIL on the course and be report to the university disciplinary board

Submission: Upload as PDF file in the Fire system linked to on course home page

Grading: No detailed grading will be given on this assignment just a Pass or Fail

1. Description of assignment

Based on the mandatory guest lecture by Ivar Jacobson and additional information about his SEMAT initiative (<http://www.semat.org>) answer the following questions:

1. What is the critique that SEMAT and Ivar Jacobson present to the current state in Software Engineering and Development?
2. In particular how does his and the SEMAT view(s) relate to the way we work with Requirements? Describe at least one concrete situation in which the current practice of a requirements engineer (as described in the course book) is not a good way (or at least sub-optimal) way of working according to SEMAT/Jacobson.
3. What alternative(s) to the current Requirements Engineering practice does the SEMAT/Jacobsson view propose? How would that change the concrete situation(s) you described in your answer to question 2 above?
4. Based on your personal Software Engineering/Development experience and views how and why would the proposed solutions/ideas of SEMAT/Jacobson solve some of the current problems (late or unsuccessful projects)?
5. Discuss why you think the SEMAT alternative might not have its intended effects on the practice of Software Engineering.

2. Rules of conduct

This assignment is to be performed individually. Be advised that any form of plagiarism will render an immediate fail on the course, and the matter will be reported to the university disciplinary board. Everything you hand in must be written by yourself or properly quoted. Please note that you are responsible for everything that bears your name - no matter if it is a group assignment or an individual assignment.

2.1 Excuses we have already heard

The following is a list of excuses for not referencing material properly that we have already heard, and will not accept. This is not a complete list of excuses - you may very well come up with a new and innovative excuse that we have not heard but is equally invalid.

Excuse 1: "I did not know that I had to add a reference."

Answer. Anything that you have not written or thought up yourself must be referenced.

Excuse 2: "I added the reference at the end of the paragraph that I copied."

Answer. Your fault here is that you copied a sentence, paragraph or a whole section word by word from another source. This is called a quote, which you surround by quotation marks (a " and a "). You should try to avoid using quotes. We are much more interested to see your interpretation of what you have read and/or heard (with proper referencing to the inventors of the ideas that you present).

Excuse 3: "The reference [to the copied paragraph] is in the section heading."

Answer. This is not only as wrong as the aforementioned, it is also ugly.

Excuse 4: "The reference [to the copied paragraph] is in the reference list."

Answer. This is basically another variant of excuses 2 and 3. As soon as you use the text or ideas of someone else in your work, you provide a reference so that the readers can understand that they are no longer reading your ideas, your thoughts, your labour.

Excuse 5: "In my home country, the teachers do not check this."

Answer: Welcome to Sweden. The teachers in Sweden are by law required to both check for and report suspected cheating to the disciplinary board. Improper referencing is cheating, since it is an attempt to take credit for what someone else has thought or written.

Excuse 6: "I interpreted it as an exercise in forming a report, not actually writing it."

Answer. When we read an assignment we do so in order to provide the best possible feedback to you as a student so that you may learn something. To hand in text that you have not written yourself is not only depriving yourself a valuable opportunity for feedback and personal improvement, it is also nonchalant towards your fellow students that could have made better use of the teacher resources.