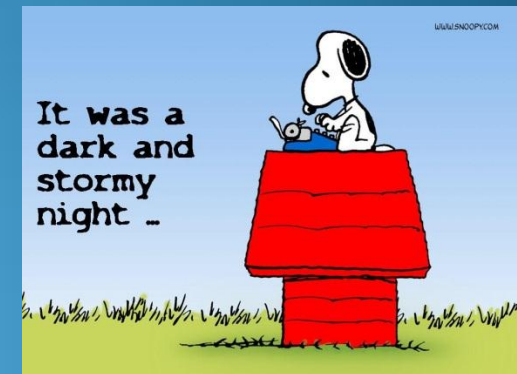




# Technical writing in computer systems and networks– DAT147

course introduction 2015-08-31

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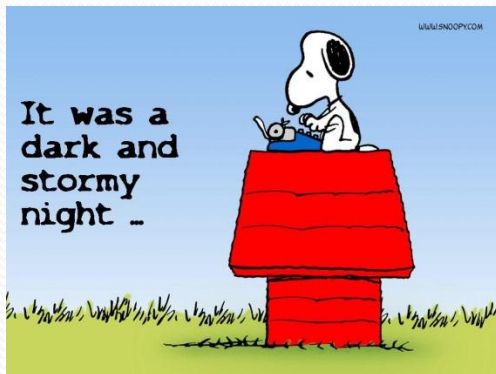


# Welcome everybody....

...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:

- **information gathering** and **reading** research papers
- **writing** scientific research papers (and a **Master's thesis**)
- **reviewing** scientific research papers
- **presenting** scientific papers in public

The student examines and surveys current state of the art in a specific field and writes an **“analytical” survey paper** in this field.

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

Finally, the course covers **ethical issues** in general and in particular for scientific writing in the CSN area.



# Course outline

The course contains the following items:

- One **introductory lecture**, giving the overall structure and the rules of the course. Also the grouping of students and supervisor allocation is presented.
- Three lectures/workshops, covering **reading, writing, reviewing and presenting** of technical papers
- Two extra lectures: one for students who need **additional support** and one for **paper dry-runs**.
- One lecture in **ethical issues**
- Three seminars during which students **present their papers**

Some lectures/workshops and one seminar session are mandatory for students (See homepage.)



# Teachers involved in the course

The course is run by the following people:

- A number of supervisors - names are found on the webpage
- Linda Bradley, Raffaella Negretti (language teachers)
- Dave Sands (presentation lecture)
- Richard Torkar (ethics lecture)
- Iosif Salem (Teaching Assistant, TA)
- Erland Jonsson (course responsible, administrator and examiner)



# 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 students in 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** (corresponding to 6 to 8 pages in ACM format)



# Overview of student activities

Here is a broad view on the course of actions:



- Participate in the **lectures and workshops**
- **Work in a group** with two other students (nominally)
- Receive **topic and three papers** from your supervisor
- Suggest **2-3 additional papers** for each student (additional to the three suggested by the supervisor)
- Write an **abstract** and submit it to the supervisor plus TA, language teacher and examiner
- Write an “analytical” **survey paper**
- Submit the **survey paper** to Easychair (a conference management system)



# Overview of student activities II

- Make **reviews** of two other survey papers
- **Receive reviews** on your survey paper
- **Revise survey paper** according to reviews received
- Resubmit **survey paper** to Easychair
- Get **acceptance** of survey paper
- **Prepare and make presentation**
- **Listen to and comment on** other presentations
- Some activity related to the ethics part (TBD)





# Supervisor obligations

The supervisor obligations are:

- Meet with his/her groups during study week 1 and agree on a **survey paper topic** for each group
- Provide links to **three existing papers** that are relevant for the topic
- **Supervise** the work of the **two groups** of students when they write their survey. This must include at least **three IRL meetings** per group
- Participate in the **reviewing process** for your two groups and for two additional groups. This is to ensure that we get enough “experienced” reviews. (Two rounds.)



# Supervisor obligations (cont'd)

- Assist the students when they make their **presentation slides**. Make a final check of the slides
- **Chair the presentation sessions** for your own students and provide relevant feedback after the presentation
- Give viewpoints on whether the presentation was **acceptable or not**
- **Book a presentation slot** after having agreed with students on a time possible for everybody. Please do this before study week 3 if possible.



# Students' calendar I



| To do  | Date                | Event  |
|--|---------------------|--|
| Group and supervisor agree on topic<br>+<br>Abstract preparation<br>(week 1)                           | 2015-08-31          | Course starts  |
|  | 2015-09-07<br>23:59 | Deadline:<br>abstract submission<br>email abstract to supervisor,<br>cc Erland, Linda and Isif |
| Survey preparation<br>(weeks 2-4)  | 2015-09-27<br>23:59 | Deadline:<br>Survey submission to<br>EasyChair   |
| Review two other surveys<br>(we will allocate surveys for you to review through EasyChair)<br>(week 5) | 2015-09-28          | Reviewing period starts:<br>You will be notified about which surveys to review by EasyChair    |
|  | 2015-10-04<br>23:59 | Deadline:<br>submit reviews to EasyChair   |



# Students' calendar II



| To do  | Date                | Event   |
|--|---------------------|---|
| Revise survey based on feedback<br>(weeks 6-7)                 | 2015-10-07          | Receive reviews on<br>your survey<br>(by email and in<br>EasyChair)       |
|  | 2015-10-18<br>23:59 | Deadline:<br>Submit the revised<br>version of your<br>survey to EasyChair |
| Receive acceptance of survey                                   | 2015-10-21          | Notification of<br>survey acceptance<br>(through EasyChair)               |
| Prepare/rehearse/carry out your<br>presentation<br>(weeks 8-9) | 2015-10-22,26 or 29 | Survey presentation   |



# Course representatives



The following students have been randomly selected as course representatives:

GEBRECHERKOS HAYLAY ALEMAYOH  
PONTUS ANDERSSON  
EMIL KRISTIANSOON

HASAN MASUD  
NAVID RANJBAR

Are you here?

And are you willing to take on the task?



# Finally....



In this course a large number of teachers 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!

