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CITS3007 Secure Coding - Group Project Phase 1

Supplementary Documentation

1. Team Communication & Responsibilities

1.1 Detailed Communication Strategy

Meeting Schedule

- **Weekly:** Monday 10:00 at UWA (approx. 2 hours, includes Sprint Planning activities)
- **Standups:** Wednesday & Friday (Online via Discord, 5 min check-in), 18:00
- **Emergency:** Discord/Signal

Meeting Format

- **Primary:** Face-to-face sessions in Reid Library study rooms for regular meetings and complex design discussions
- **Secondary:** Video calls via Discord when in-person meetings are not possible
- **Emergency:** Signal group chat for urgent communications

Communication Tools

- **Discord:** Primary platform for team communication
 - Dedicated channels:
 - * #general-discussion
 - * #technical-issues
 - * #code-reviews
 - * #meeting-minutes
 - Voice channels for pair programming sessions
- **Signal:** Secure messaging for urgent communications and sensitive information
- **GitHub Projects:** Task tracking and project management
 - Kanban board for task visualization
 - Issue tracking integrated with code
 - Milestone tracking for deliverables
 - Automated project updates via commits and PRs

1.2 Progress Tracking & Accountability

- **Standup Updates:** Quick check-ins during online standups (Wed/Fri)

- **Weekly Reviews:** Progress assessment during weekly meetings
- **Burndown Charts:** Track velocity and remaining work
- **Peer Reviews:** Code review requirements before merging
- **Documentation Updates:** Regular wiki updates tracking decisions and progress

1.3 Meeting & Participation Expectations

Attendance Policy

- **Meeting Notification**
 - Members must confirm attendance 24 hours before scheduled meetings
 - Unavoidable absences must be communicated in a timely manner
 - Emergency absences should be notified as soon as possible via Signal
 - Additional steps may be taken if a group member is uncontactable for an extended period of time

No-Show Protocol

1. **First Instance**
 - Team lead will contact member via Signal
 - Member must provide catch-up plan within 24 hours
 - Missed work to be redistributed if critical path affected
2. **Second Instance**
 - Formal discussion in next team meeting
 - Written explanation required
 - Adjustment of responsibilities if needed
 - Development of catch-up plan with specific deadlines
3. **Persistent Issues**
 - Meeting with unit coordinator
 - Formal documentation of attendance issues
 - Potential reassignment of critical path tasks
 - Review of team member's role and responsibilities

Contribution Monitoring

- **Weekly Contribution Review**
 - Code commits and pull requests
 - Documentation updates
 - Meeting participation
 - Task completion rate
- **Intervention Triggers**
 - Missing two consecutive meetings without notice
 - No code commits for one week without explanation
 - Consistently late or incomplete deliverables
 - Non-responsive for > 24 hours during critical sprints

Support Measures

- Pair programming sessions for struggling members
- Flexible meeting times for legitimate scheduling conflicts
- Recording of important meetings for async review
- Regular 1-on-1 check-ins if performance issues arise

1.4 Detailed Responsibility Allocation

Core Responsibilities

1. **Technical Lead & Infrastructure** (Stephen Beaver)
 - Repository management and version control
 - CI/CD pipeline implementation and maintenance
 - Development environment setup and management
 - Infrastructure security and hardening
 - Technical architecture decisions
 - Code review coordination
 - Development standards enforcement
2. **Authentication & Security** (Kelly Snow)
 - Implementation of secure login mechanisms
 - Password management using libsodium
 - Account recovery procedures
 - Multi-factor authentication support
 - Security testing and validation
 - Security documentation
3. **RBAC & Financial Controls** (Prem Patel)
 - Design and implementation of role hierarchy
 - Privilege management system
 - Financial instrument access control
 - Transaction security
 - Economic model integration
 - Financial security validation
4. **Session Management & Performance** (Muhammad Qureshi)
 - Secure session handling and validation
 - Session timeout management
 - Concurrent session control
 - Performance optimization
 - Resource management
 - Load testing and monitoring
5. **Testing & Quality Assurance** (Kai Fletcher)
 - Test framework implementation
 - Unit and integration testing
 - Security testing automation
 - Quality metrics tracking
 - Documentation standards
 - Code coverage analysis

Shared Responsibilities

- Code reviews
- Security awareness
- Documentation updates
- Sprint planning
- Knowledge sharing
- Flexible roles, opportunity to work on interest areas

Cross-Training Strategy

- Regular knowledge sharing sessions
- Pair programming on critical components
- Documentation of all processes

- Peer review of critical components

2. Version Control Strategy

2.1 Detailed Repository Structure

```

oo-acs/
├── src/
│   ├── auth/      # Authentication system
│   ├── rbac/      # Role-based access control
│   ├── session/   # Session management
│   └── admin/     # Administrative tools
├── tests/         # Test suite
├── docs/          # Documentation
└── tools/         # Development tools

```

2.2 Branching Strategy

- main: Production-ready code
- develop: Integration branch
- feature/feature-name: New features
- bugfix/bug-name: Bug fixes
- security/security-change: Security-related changes

2.3 Security Measures

- GitHub commit signing with GPG keys
- Branch protection rules
- Required pull request (PR) reviews
- Automated security checks

3. Development Tools

3.1 Development Environment

- **Linode Instances:**
 - Testing: Linode 1GB (Nanode)
 - Staging: Linode 2GB (Standard)
 - Production: Linode 2GB (Standard)

- **Ansible Configuration:**
 - Infrastructure as Code
 - Automated provisioning
 - Security hardening
 - Deployment automation
 - Playbook Structure:

```

ansible/
├── inventory/
│   ├── testing
│   ├── staging
│   └── production

```

- ```

├── group_vars/
│ ├── all.yml
│ ├── testing.yml
│ ├── staging.yml
│ └── production.yml
├── roles/
│ ├── common/
│ ├── security/
│ ├── application/
│ └── monitoring/
└── playbooks/
 ├── site.yml
 ├── testing.yml
 ├── staging.yml
 └── production.yml
- GitHub Integration:
 name: Deploy to Environment
 on:
 push:
 branches: [main]
 jobs:
 deploy:
 runs-on: ubuntu-latest
 steps:
 - uses: actions/checkout@v2
 - name: Deploy to Testing
 if: github.ref == 'refs/heads/main'
 run: |
 ansible-playbook -i inventory/testing playbooks/testing.yml
- GitHub Secrets:
 * LINODE_API_TOKEN
 * ANSIBLE_VAULT_PASSWORD
 * SSH_PRIVATE_KEY
- Repository Access (Deploy Keys):
 * To allow automated cloning of the private repository by Ansible, a unique SSH key pair (Ed25519) is generated on each target server for the deployment user (oo-acsc).
 * The public key must be manually added as a Deploy Key (read-only recommended) to the GitHub repository settings.
 * The Ansible playbook includes tasks to generate the key if needed and pause, displaying the public key to be added to GitHub.
 * This ensures the server uses a dedicated key with limited permissions, adhering to the principle of least privilege, rather than using personal SSH keys.

```

### 3.2 Development Standards

- **Coding Standard:** SEI CERT C Coding Standard
- **Compiler Flags:**

```
set(CMAKE_C_FLAGS "${CMAKE_C_FLAGS} -std=c11 -pedantic -Wall -Wextra -Werror -Wformat=
```

```
set(CMAKE_C_FLAGS_DEBUG "${CMAKE_C_FLAGS_DEBUG} -fsanitize=address,undefined")
```

- **Coding Style Rules:**

- Indentation: 4 spaces (no tabs)
- Line length: 80 characters max
- Function names: snake\_case
- Constants: UPPER\_CASE
- Struct names: PascalCase
- Local variables: snake\_case
- Comments: Doxygen style
- Braces: K&R style

### 3.3 Security Standards

#### 1. CIA Triad Implementation

- Confidentiality:
  - libsodium encryption for sensitive data
  - Basic access control implementation
  - Secure session management
- Integrity:
  - Input validation for all user inputs
  - Basic error checking mechanisms
  - Secure logging practices
- Availability:
  - Simple error handling
  - Basic logging system
  - Resource management

#### 2. C11 Standard Compliance

- Strict adherence to ISO/IEC 9899:2011 (C11)
- Compiler flags:

```
set(CMAKE_C_FLAGS "${CMAKE_C_FLAGS} -std=c11 -pedantic -Wall -Wextra -Werror")
```
- No compiler-specific extensions unless explicitly required
- Standard library usage:
  - stdint.h for fixed-width integers
  - stdbool.h for boolean types
  - stdatomic.h for atomic operations
  - threads.h for threading support

#### 3. SEI CERT C Coding Standard

- Key rules implemented:
  - INT30-C: Ensure operations on unsigned integers cannot wrap
  - STR31-C: Guarantee null termination for string operations
  - MEM35-C: Allocate sufficient memory for an object
  - ERR33-C: Detect and handle errors
- Memory safety rules:
  - MEM00-C: Allocate and free memory in the same module
  - MEM01-C: Store a new value in pointers immediately after free
  - MEM02-C: Immediately cast the result of a memory allocation function call
- String handling rules:
  - STR00-C: Represent characters using an appropriate type
  - STR02-C: Sanitize data passed to complex subsystems
  - STR03-C: Do not inadvertently truncate a string

#### 4. MISRA C:2012 Guidelines

- Mandatory rules compliance required
- Advisory rules evaluated per case

- Deviations must be documented and reviewed
- Key guidelines:
  - Rule 8.2: Function types shall be in prototype form
  - Rule 8.4: Identifiers shall be distinct
  - Rule 8.7: Objects shall be defined at block scope
  - Rule 8.12: When an array is declared, its size shall be explicitly specified

#### 5. **ISM Guidelines**

- ISM-1759: Secure development lifecycle
- ISM-1760: Secure coding practices
- ISM-1761: Security testing
- ISM-1762: Vulnerability management
- Implementation:
  - Development process documentation
  - Security testing procedures
  - Vulnerability management plan
  - Secure coding guidelines

#### 6. **OWASP Security Guidelines**

- Input Validation:
  - Validate all user inputs
  - Sanitize data before processing
  - Use parameterized queries
- Authentication:
  - Implement secure password policies
  - Use strong session management
  - Implement proper access control
- Error Handling:
  - Implement proper error handling
  - Avoid information disclosure
  - Log security events

#### 7. **STRIDE Threat Modeling**

- Spoofing:
  - Strong authentication
  - Session management
  - Access control
- Tampering:
  - Input validation
  - Data integrity checks
  - Secure storage
- Repudiation:
  - Audit logging
  - Transaction tracking
  - User accountability
- Information Disclosure:
  - Data encryption
  - Access control
  - Secure communication
- Denial of Service:
  - Resource management
  - Rate limiting
  - Error handling
- Elevation of Privilege:
  - Principle of least privilege
  - Role-based access control
  - Permission verification

### 3.4 Security Tools

#### 1. Static Analysis

- gcc -fanalyzer
  - Enable all analyzers: -fanalyzer -fanalyzer-call-summaries
  - Enable verbose output: -fanalyzer-verbose-edges
- Valgrind
  - Full memory checking: -leak-check=full
  - Show reachable blocks: -show-reachable=yes
  - Track origins: -track-origins=yes
- AFL++ for fuzzing
  - Timeout: 1000ms
  - Memory limit: 50MB
  - Dictionary: custom.dict

#### 2. Testing Framework

- Unity testing framework
- Test coverage requirements:
  - Critical components: 80% minimum
  - Non-critical components: 60% minimum
  - Security-critical paths: 100%
- Test Structure:

```
#include "unity.h"
#include <valgrind/memcheck.h>

void setUp(void) {
 // Setup code
}

void tearDown(void) {
 // Cleanup code
}

void test_memory_safety(void) {
 // Memory safety tests
 TEST_ASSERT_EQUAL(0, VALGRIND_COUNT_LEAKS());
}

void test_input_validation(void) {
 // Input validation tests
 TEST_ASSERT_EQUAL(0, validate_input("valid input"));
 TEST_ASSERT_EQUAL(-1, validate_input("invalid input"));
}

int main(void) {
 UNITY_BEGIN();
 RUN_TEST(test_memory_safety);
 RUN_TEST(test_input_validation);
 return UNITY_END();
}
```

#### 3. GitHub Security Features

- Commit Signing:
  - # Generate GPG key
  - gpg --full-generate-key
  - # Export public key



- ```

gpg --armor --export <key-id> > public-key.asc
# Configure Git
git config --global user.signingkey <key-id>
git config --global commit.gpgsign true

```
- Pre-commit Hooks:

```

#!/bin/sh
# Run static analysis
gcc -fanalyzer -c $1
# Check memory safety
valgrind --leak-check=full ./$1
# Verify documentation
doxygen -g

```
 - Pull Request Template:

```

## Description
[Description of changes]

## Security Checklist
- [ ] Memory safety verified
- [ ] Input validation complete
- [ ] Error handling implemented
- [ ] Documentation updated
- [ ] Tests added/updated

## Review Checklist
- [ ] Code follows style guide
- [ ] Security requirements met
- [ ] Tests pass
- [ ] Documentation complete

```

4. Dependency Management

- GitHub Dependabot Integration:

```

version: 2
updates:
  - package-ecosystem: "github-actions"
    directory: "/"
    schedule:
      interval: "weekly"
  - package-ecosystem: "pip"
    directory: "/"
    schedule:
      interval: "weekly"

```
- CMake Dependencies:

```

# Core Dependencies
find_package(OpenSSL 3.0.0 REQUIRED)
find_package(Valgrind 3.18.1 REQUIRED)

```

5. Cryptographic Tools

- Password Hashing: Argon2id via libsodium
 - Implementation: crypto_pwhash
 - Parameters:
 - * Memory cost: 64MB
 - * Time cost: 3
 - * Parallelism: 4
 - * Salt length: 16 bytes
 - * Hash length: 32 bytes
 - Justification:

- * Winner of Password Hashing Competition
- * Memory-hard function resistant to GPU/ASIC attacks
- * Configurable parameters for security/performance balance
- * Built-in salt generation and storage

6. Security Programs

- Basic Security Testing:
 - Automated security scanning:
 - * Static analysis: gcc -fanalyzer
 - * Memory safety: Valgrind
 - * Basic fuzzing: AFL++
 - Input validation testing:
 - * Buffer overflow tests
 - * Integer overflow tests
 - * Format string tests
 - Boundary condition testing:
 - * Array bounds
 - * String lengths
 - * Integer ranges
 - Memory leak detection
- Security Documentation:
 - Document known vulnerabilities
 - Track security updates
 - Note custom security patches
 - Maintain security checklist
- Basic Security Review Process:
 - Code review checklist
 - Security-focused testing
 - Regular security audits

7. CISA Guidelines Implementation

- Secure Development Lifecycle:
 - Development Environment:
 - * Linode instances
 - * Ansible automation
 - * GitHub security practices
 - Code Quality:
 - * SEI CERT C standard
 - * Unity testing
 - * Secure coding practices
 - Security Testing:
 - * Static analysis
 - * Memory safety
 - * Input validation
- Deployment Security:
 - Environment Separation
 - Access Control
 - Monitoring
- Documentation Requirements:
 - Security Documentation
 - Development Documentation
 - User Documentation

8. Supply Chain Security

- Simple Dependency Documentation:
 - ## Dependencies
 - OpenSSL 3.0.0: Cryptographic functions

- Valgrind 3.18.1: Memory analysis
- Unity: Unit testing framework
- libsodium: Password hashing
- Basic Library Management:
 - System package manager for core dependencies
 - Document custom modifications
 - Track security updates
- Simple Version Control:
 - Document library versions in CMakeLists.txt
 - Track security updates
 - Note any custom security patches

9. Security Metrics

- Code Quality:
 - Cyclomatic complexity: < 10
 - Function length: < 50 lines
 - Comment density: > 20%
 - Duplication: < 5%
- Security Metrics:
 - Static analysis warnings: 0
 - Memory leaks: 0
 - Buffer overflows: 0
 - Race conditions: 0
- Testing Metrics:
 - Unit test coverage: > 80%
 - Security test coverage: > 95%
 - Performance test pass rate: 100%

10. Session Management

- Token Generation:


```
typedef struct {
    char token[TOKEN_LENGTH];
    time_t issued_at;
    time_t expires_at;
    char session_id[SESSION_ID_LENGTH];
} session_token_t;
```
- Security Measures:
 - Token rotation every 15 minutes
 - Concurrent session limit: 3
 - Session timeout: 30 minutes
 - IP-based session validation

11. Authentication System

- Password Policies:
 - Minimum length: 12 characters
 - Required character types: 3
 - Maximum age: 90 days
 - History: 5 previous passwords
- Account Recovery:
 - Security questions: 3 required
 - Recovery email verification
 - Temporary password expiration: 24 hours
 - Failed attempts limit: 5

3.4 Collaboration Tools

- **Discord Configuration:**

- Dedicated channels:
 - * #general-discussion
 - * #technical-issues
 - * #code-reviews
 - * #meeting-minutes
- Voice channels for pair programming sessions
- Meeting scheduling and reminders
- File sharing and code snippets
- **GitHub Projects Setup:**
 - Kanban board configuration
 - Issue tracking templates
 - Milestone tracking
 - Automated project updates
 - Integration with CI/CD pipeline
- **Signal Integration:**
 - Emergency communication protocol
 - Secure messaging for sensitive information
 - Quick response system for critical issues

4. Key Secure Coding Practices

4.1 Memory Safety

- Safe memory management patterns from reference codebases:

```
// Memory management (from curl)
void *safe_malloc(size_t size) {
    void *ptr = malloc(size);
    if (!ptr) {
        log_error("Memory allocation failed");
        return NULL;
    }
    return ptr;
}
```

- Bounds checking for all array operations
- Memory leak detection
- Buffer overflow prevention

4.2 Input Validation

- Comprehensive input validation
- Boundary condition testing:
 - Buffer overflow tests: ± 1 byte boundaries
 - Integer overflow tests: INT_MAX, INT_MIN
 - Format string tests: %n, %s, %x
- Format string validation
- Sanitization of user inputs

4.3 Access Control

- RBAC implementation based on FreeRADIUS patterns:

```
typedef struct {
    role_t role;
    permission_t *permissions;
    size_t num_permissions;
} user_roles_t;
```

- Principle of least privilege
- Permission verification
- Audit logging

4.4 Error Handling

- Consistent error handling patterns:

```
// Error handling (from OpenSSH)
int handle_error(int error_code) {
    switch (error_code) {
        case AUTH_ERROR:
            log_auth_error();
            return -1;
        case SESSION_ERROR:
            log_session_error();
            return -1;
        default:
            log_generic_error();
            return -1;
    }
}
```

- Proper error reporting
- Secure logging
- Recovery procedures

5. Risk Management & Quality Assurance

5.1 Risk Management

1. Technical Risks

- Memory safety issues
- Input validation vulnerabilities
- Access control weaknesses
- Performance bottlenecks

2. Operational Risks

- Development environment issues
- Team collaboration challenges
- Time management
- Resource constraints

5.2 Quality Assurance

1. Code Quality

- SEI CERT C compliance
- Static analysis

- Code reviews
- Documentation standards
- 2. **Security Testing**
 - Unit testing with Unity
 - Memory safety checks
 - Input validation testing
 - Access control verification
- 3. **Documentation**
 - Code documentation
 - Security documentation
 - User documentation
 - Process documentation

5.3 Implementation Timeline

Phase 1 (Planning - Completed)

- **Objective:** Establish a clear plan for collaboration, tooling, and quality for the project.
- **Key Outcomes Achieved:**
 - Team Communication plan and Responsibilities defined (Sec 1).
 - Version Control Strategy established using Git/GitHub, including branching and security measures (Sec 2).
 - Development Tools selected, including Linode instances and Ansible for automation (Sec 3.1).
 - Development Environment (Testing) provisioned and configured via Ansible, including security hardening and tool installation.
 - Secure Repository Access strategy (Deploy Keys) implemented in Ansible.
 - Development and Security Standards defined (SEI CERT C, C11, MISRA C, etc.) (Sec 3.2, 3.3).
 - Key Secure Coding Practices identified for Phase 2 (Sec 4).
 - Initial Risk Management and Quality Assurance plan outlined (Sec 5.1, 5.2).
 - Git-based tracking procedures defined (Sec 6).

Phase 2 (Implementation - Upcoming)

- **Duration:** Approx. 3 Weeks (Week 9 - Week 11)
- **Objective:** Implement the core ACS functionality based on Phase 1 planning and standards.
- **Week 9: Core Functionality & Initial Security**
 - Implement Authentication system basics (libsodium hashing).
 - Implement RBAC core structure and basic privilege checks.
 - Implement Session management basics (token generation/validation).
 - Begin implementing Memory safety practices and Input validation system.
 - Set up basic Admin tools framework.
 - Start core unit tests for implemented features.
 - Begin code documentation.
- **Week 10: Advanced Features & Core Testing**
 - Refine Access control mechanisms.
 - Implement secure Logging for security events.
 - Develop further Unit tests, aiming for initial coverage targets.
 - Begin security testing procedures (static analysis, manual checks).
 - Continue code and process documentation.
- **Week 11: Comprehensive Testing & Finalization**
 - Complete comprehensive Testing (Security, Performance, Integration).

- Finalize all Documentation (Code, Security, User, Process).
- Address findings from testing and perform necessary refactoring.
- Prepare Phase 2 report and Phase 3 demo/presentation materials.

Phase 3 (Demo/Presentation - Weeks 11-12)

- Deliver final project demonstration and presentation.
- Reflect on Phase 1 plans vs. actual execution.

Buffer Time and Contingency Planning

- **Time Allocation**
 - Contingency time factored into task estimates where possible.
 - Aim to maintain a buffer of ~1-2 days for critical path tasks.
 - Flexible scheduling for unexpected delays.
- **Progress Monitoring**
 - Online Standups (Wed/Fri) for quick updates.
 - Weekly progress reviews and planning during Monday meetings.
 - Regular security audits.
- **Task Prioritization**
 - Critical path tasks identified
 - Dependencies mapped
 - Risk assessment for each task
 - Contingency plans for high-risk items
- **Resource Management**
 - Team member availability tracking
 - Skill development planning
 - Cross-training sessions
 - Knowledge sharing meetings

6. Git-Based Tracking

6.1 Progress Tracking

- **Regular:** Commit-based tracking with conventional commits.
- **Standups (Wed/Fri):** Quick check on GitHub Projects board status.
- **Weekly (Mon):** In-depth PR reviews and GitHub Projects updates/planning.

6.2 Effort Tracking

- **Metrics:**
 - Commit frequency and quality
 - PR participation
 - Code review activity
 - Documentation updates
- **Triggers:**
 - No commits for 3 days (indicates potential blocker).
 - Unreviewed PRs > 24 hours (ensures timely reviews).
 - Failed CI/CD checks.
 - Significant documentation gaps identified.

6.3 Quality Control

- **Automated:**

- Pre-commit hooks
- Static analysis
- Test coverage
- Documentation validation
- **Manual:**
 - Code reviews
 - Security reviews
 - Documentation reviews
 - Weekly retrospectives/reviews (part of Monday meeting).

7. Reference Documentation

7.1 Security Standards

- ISM Guidelines
- CISA Publications
- NIST Guidelines
- OWASP Standards

7.2 Development Standards

- SEI CERT C
- MISRA C
- C11 Standard
- Secure Coding Practices

7.3 Testing Standards

- Unit Testing
- Security Testing
- Performance Testing
- Documentation Standards

7.4 Reference Codebases

- curl: Memory management patterns
- OpenSSH: Authentication and session management
- FreeRADIUS: RBAC implementation

8. Project Rules and Assessment

8.1 Project Rules and Deadlines

- **Project Weighting:** 30% of final mark
- **Total Marks:** 60 marks
- **Phase 1 Due Date:** Wednesday 16 April 2025 (11:59 pm)
- **Phase 1 Marks:** 10 marks
- **Phase 2 Due Date:** Week 11 (40 marks)
- **Phase 3 Due Date:** Weeks 11-12 (10 marks)
- **Peer Evaluation:** Required for Phases 2 and 3
 - Group Contribution Factor (GCF) applied
 - Range: 0 to 1.2
 - Cannot exceed 100% for phases 2 and 3

8.2 Academic Conduct

- **University Policy:** Adherence to University Academic Integrity Policy
- **Collaboration Guidelines:**
 - Discussion of general principles permitted
 - All submitted work must be original
 - Clear documentation of external references
 - Proper attribution of all sources
- **Documentation Requirements:**
 - Maintain clear records of all contributions
 - Document all external resources used
 - Track all collaborative decisions

8.3 Report Format

- **Format:** Markdown (preferred)
 - Highly readable in raw form
 - Easily convertible to other formats
 - Excellent version control support
 - Consistent formatting across platforms
- **Submission:** Via Moodle
 - One submission per group
 - Include all group member names and numbers
 - Include group name and number

8.4 Assessment Criteria

- **Content Requirements (5 marks):**
 - Team communication and responsibilities
 - Version control strategy
 - Development tools
 - Key secure coding practices
 - Risk management and quality assurance
- **Report Quality (5 marks):**
 - Clarity of presentation
 - Logical organization
 - Strength of justifications
 - Technical accuracy
 - Professional presentation

1. Document Conversion Standards

1.1 Conversion Process

- **Tool:** Pandoc with xelatex engine
- **Command:**

```
pandoc input.md -o output.pdf \  
  --pdf-engine=xelatex \  
  -V geometry:"margin=1in" \  
  -V colorlinks=true \  
  -V linkcolor=blue \  
  -V toccolor=blue \  
  --toc \  
  \
```

```
--toc-depth=2 \  
-V mainfont="Fira Sans" \  
-V monofont="Fira Code"
```

1.2 Typography Standards

- **Main Text:** Fira Sans
 - Sans-serif font optimized for readability
 - Excellent Unicode support
 - Consistent rendering across platforms
- **Code Blocks:** Fira Code
 - Monospace font with programming ligatures
 - Enhanced readability for code snippets
 - Special character support for technical documentation

1.3 Layout Standards

- **Margins:** 1 inch (2.54cm) on all sides
- **Links:** Colored blue for better visibility
- **Table of Contents:**
 - Depth: 2 levels
 - Automatic generation
 - Clickable navigation
- **Code Blocks:**
 - Syntax highlighting
 - Monospace font
 - Preserved indentation
 - Line number support

1.4 Markdown Standards

- **Headings:** ATX-style (# for headings)
- **Lists:**
 - Unordered: * for bullet points
 - Ordered: 1. for numbered lists
- **Code:**
 - Inline: backticks
 - Blocks: "" with language specification
- **Links:** `text` format
- **Images:** alt format

1.5 Quality Control

- **Pre-conversion Checks:**
 - Valid Markdown syntax
 - Proper heading hierarchy
 - Consistent list formatting
 - Valid link references
- **Post-conversion Verification:**
 - Table of contents accuracy
 - Link functionality
 - Code block formatting
 - Font rendering
 - Page breaks