Examination Feedback for EEE412 – Systems Architectures Autumn Semester 2008-09

Feedback for EEE412 Session:2008-2009

<u>Feedback:</u> Please write simple statements about how well students addressed the exam paper in general and each individual question in particular including common problems/mistakes and areas of concern in the boxes provided below. Increase row height if necessary.

and before provided below. Included for height
General Comments:
Perennial comment: Read the question carefully!
Question 1:
Overall, reasonably well-done although a number of instances of answering the wrong question. In
particular, the first part of the question asks why something is "necessary" but seems to have been almost
universally interpreted as why would you "want" to do this. There is an important distinction between "to
want" and "to need" (the root of "necessary"). One is optional, the other is essential.

Question 2:

Again, generally well-done apart from the section on the number of stacks in a multi-threaded process. Most got this wrong – since a thread is a separate path of execution, threads cannot share stacks.

Question 3:

Again, generally well-answered. No particular problems.

Question 4:

Some of the descriptions of how a physical address is formed lacked sufficient detail. In particular, the role of the offset was glossed over in many cases.

The multiple-level page tables: Most failed to recognise that only as many Level 2 tables as are required need to be allocated, leading to a significant saving on memory.