Week 1: What is IT?

Aim

The aim of this tutorial is for you to start working in a group, and to introduce you to the broad range of information technology.

Who are you?

Each member of the class should stand up and briefly introduce themselves. The tutor will do this first. You should each state:

- Your name (including what your classmates should call you)

- Where you are from

- What program you are studying at RMIT (Information Technology, Computing Studies, Computer Science, etc.)

- Why you chose to study at RMIT

- One or more hobbies or interests of yours

- What you are passionate about

- Your idea for an interesing IT project (if any)

Group formation

Now that you have heard from each person present, you will form into groups for some initial discussion of the ideas presented and some other issues.

Form yourselves into a group with 3 or 4 other people. This is a discussion group for this week only, and will not necessarily be your project group. You should re-arrange the furniture in the room as necessary in order to be able to sit around a table or number of tables facing each other.

Name Game

Find a ball, or a similar object such as a scrunched-up piece of scrap paper. Throw the ball to a member of your group addressing them by name. Every group member should have thrown the ball to every other other member of the group at least once.

Keep doing this for 5 minutes, or until every member of the group can instantly name every other member of the group.

What is IT?

1. What exactly is information technology? What kinds of topics would you expect to cover in this course? What topics would you consider **essential** for this course? (i.e. what topics **must** everyone who passes this course know?)

2. "I am interested in politics, so information technology is completely irrelevant to me". Describe at least three counterexamples to this statement.

3. How would skills in information technology help you with a career in the movie industry?

4. Name and describe at least four applications of robots.

5. "The Internet might have killed the CD industry, but that is the only influence of IT on music in general". Do you agree or disagree? Why? Back up your answer with some evidence.

6. What is a Turtlebot? What is a Baxter? What might it be used for? Where is the nearest one?

7. "Bitcoin is only one type of cryptocurrency based on the blockchain idea". What is Bitcoin? What is a cryptocurrency? And what is "the blockchain idea"?

8. What is the most useful app on your mobile phone? Why? What features of this app make it appropriate for a mobile phone, rather than say a laptop?

Project ideas

In the last 20 or so minutes, discuss the ideas that each of you have for an IT project. Why are you interested in this? What would make this project attractive to others? What skills or equipment would be required for this project?

Attendance

Before you leave, make sure your tutor has recorded your attendance.

Reflection

What are the boundaries of IT? Under what circumstances would you say that a given issue is **not** about IT? Write down one sentence that describes your understanding of what IT is.