CPT110 - Introduction to Information Technology

Assignment 3: Reflections on IT (20%) - SP4

Due Date: Monday 13th February, 2012 - 11:59pm

Assignment Learning Objectives:
- Research about past and current trends in IT and its future beyond.

Skills required:
- Ability to perform internet searches and read about computers in general
- Identify the current technology being used in a topic of choice
- Find information on research on new technology of the future.
- Report writing and referencing
- Create PDF document

Research

You are expected to do some research on a particular aspect of Information Technology. Some suggestions include electronic voting, robot fish, robot mine clearance robot companions for the elderly (or just about any other robot-related topic), information security, 3D user interfaces, digital music, digital video, electronic commerce, natural language processing, DNA computing, quantum computing, cryptography, malware detection and removal, Moore's Law, and green computing.

You can also come up with your own topic, as long as it is relevant to IT, however, that probably doesn't reduce the scope very much. Nevertheless, please ask your instructor(s) if you are unsure if a topic is appropriate or the scope is too broad or narrow.

Once you have chosen a topic, you need to read about it, think about it, and write about it in your own words. You should have three or four sources for your topic (which could be web pages, articles, books, or whatever you can find). Please note that Wikipedia is a good way to find out some overview information and to find other relevant materials, but **Wikipedia should not be used as one of your quoted sources**. You should address the issues below. You should write 1 or 2 paragraphs on each issue.

1. Why is this topic of interest? What problem does it solve? What applications or benefits to society might it have?
2. What is the current state-of-the-art? What is on the horizon? (i.e. what new developments are expected soon).
3. What do you predict will happen? What changes in society may result from this?

Do not write your report in a Question and Answer style. This means that you do not have to copy the above questions in your report and answer them individually. These questions are a guide to the overall structure of your assignment; there is more than one way to get this task done.

Report Requirements

Based on the three questions above, read more about the topic of choice and write a report. Your report should *not* be more than 3 pages or 700 words, excluding cover page, table of contents (if used) and bibliography. It is advised that you use a 12-pt font size.

Please note that copying text from the Web is both fairly easy to do and to detect; this will result in you getting 0 marks. I don't want to know how well you can copy, cut and paste; I want to know how well you can read, understand, assimilate information and write about a technical topic in your own words.

What to include your report

The report should be in a structured format where each major question as mentioned above or the ones which you choose to answer, has been covered under separate headings/sections. Questions such as What? Why and How? to solve a problem can also be chosen as a guideline. **It is expected that you will need to divide your report into a section for each of the question as well as a section summarising all the information.** However, depending upon how you structure your report, this may not apply.

An introduction, main body which has separate sections and conclusion or executive summary is better suited for this kind of report. You may choose to explain some sections using dot-points, if you believe it is appropriate.

In order to answer all questions and conclusions to an appropriate level of detail, a typical report could be expected to run approximately two to three pages, not including any diagrams, pictures or tables you may wish to include. It is neither necessary nor assessable to make use of diagrams, tables or pictures, however, these can be added if they are considered relevant to your explanations. However, make sure that your report is **no more than 3 pages or 700 words.**

Your **PDF** report should also have the following:
- Cover page (template will be provided)
- Reference section

Submission Procedure

- You should submit your assignment via Blackboard using the **Assignments > Assignment 3 – Submission** link (detailed instructions are available at the end of assignment 1 specs).

- You may resubmit the report if you need to, but only the most recent version will be marked.

- Report should be submitted in PDF format. Free PDF converters are available on the Internet.

- The final size of your assignment must not be larger than 1.5Mb. This may mean reducing the resolution of each image and/or compressing image formats prior to including them in the report (e.g. to jpg).

- You should name your file with your student number followed by '-A3' (for e.g. *s3344987-A3.pdf*)

Research, Collaboration, and Academic Integrity

There is a research component to this report; any direct references, figures, or quotes used must be cited, and a bibliography should be included as an appendix at the end of your report.

Citations must *not* come from any encyclopaedic resource; e.g. Encyclopaedia Britannica, Encarta, World Book, Wikipedia (or syndication thereof), etc.

You may share and discuss any links and references you find relevant to completing this assignment on the discussion forums, so long as you include *how* you found the resource that you

mention. You are free to refer to textbooks, notes, work in study groups etc. to discover approaches to problems, however the assignment should be your own individual work.

Citations

Complete information about how to cite a document is available from RMIT Library:

http://www.rmit.edu.au/library/info-trek/referencing

You are free to choose a citation style, however it must be consistently used and applied in your report. Note the difference between "in-text" and "bibliography" referencing. Your report must include a bibliography, and may make use of in-text referencing where it is appropriate.

Marking Guide

Description	Marks
Answering the three guideline questions or What Why and How or other questions of similar type showing proper research	60
Referencing	10
Grammar and Punctuation	20
Readability	10
TOTAL MARKS	**100**
PENALTIES (marks are deducted)	
- File size exceeds 1.5Mb	-20
- Not naming the file with your student number followed by '-A3' (e.g. *s334498-A3.pdf*)	-10
- Making a submission with multiple files (i.e. not including the images within the report)	-10
- Not submitting in PDF file format	-10
- Late submission	*see Late Penalty section*

Plagiarism:
This assignment must be your own work. Plagiarism is a very serious offence. Students are referred to the RMIT plagiarism policy at http://www.rmit.edu.au/browse;ID=sg4yfqzod48g1

Extensions:
Any student wishing an extension must go through the official procedure for applying for extensions.

Do not wait till the submission due date to apply for an extension. The facilitator or tutors cannot authorise extensions. Late submissions must first be approved by the Online Programs Administrator by completing the "Assignment Extension Form" at this URL: http://oua.cs.rmit.edu.au/procedures/forms.html or contacting ouacsit@rmit.edu.au.

Draft Reviews:
The instructors will not be able to review assignments prior to submission.

Late Penalties
Late submissions of assignments will be penalised as follows:

Time Submitted after Due Date	Late Penalty
0 to 4:59 minutes	no late penalty
5 minutes to 1 hour	5% off final mark
1 hour to 1 day	10% off final mark
1 day to 5 days	10% off final mark for every day late
more than 5 days	100% penalty (you will get 0 marks)