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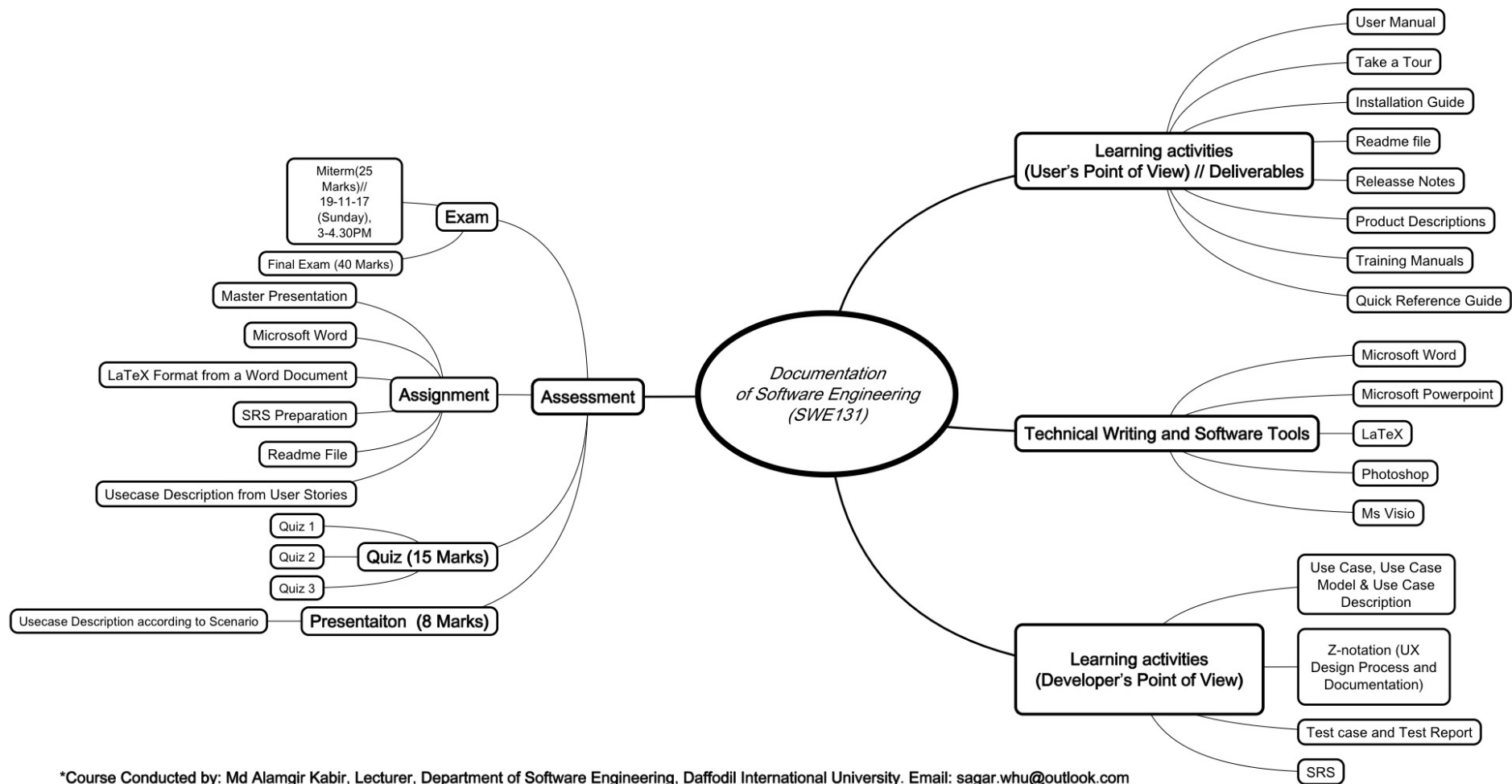
Documentation of Software Engineering

Documentation Principles

Presenter

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Outline

- Documentation Principles
- Single Sourcing Technical Documentation
- Single Sourcing Principles



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Principles of Sound Documentation
Single Sourcing in Technical Documentation
Single Sourcing Principles

Documentation Principles

Principles of sound documentation

- (1) Write from the point of view of the reader;
- (2) Avoid unnecessary repetition;
- (3) Avoid ambiguity;
- (4) Use a standard organization;
- (5) Record rationale (A set of reason with particular description);
- (6) Keep documentation current but not too current; and
- (7) Review documentation for fitness of purpose.

Single Sourcing in Technical Documentation

- described as: “write once, publish everywhere”.
- two main goals:
 - Publish your content to several different output formats - PDF, HTML, Mobile, etc.
 - Use the content you’ve authored in multiple contexts - e.g. reuse a piece of text (often called "topics") as building blocks to produce documentation for several products or other variants, instead of having to copy and paste.
- you should break down your content in smaller chunks of content, and then reuse them.

Single Sourcing Principles



The Dry Principle



The KISS Principle



Only Talk to Your
Friends



The Single Repository
Principle



The Abstraction and
Generalization Principle

Single Sourcing Principles – The Dry Principle

- DRY stands for “**Don’t Repeat Yourself**”
- So if at any moment you find yourself thinking, “I’ve written something like this before”, this should trigger the principle Don’t Repeat Yourself - and then rack your brain to find a way to reuse, instead of rewriting it!

Single Sourcing Principles – The KISS Principle

- The KISS principle stands for “Keep It Simple, Stupid” or “Keep It Simple and Straightforward”.
- **Make sure that others can understand what you did**

Single Sourcing Principles – Only Talk to Your Friend

- Only link to or connect to other topics, if you know they are a close “friend”.
- Guidelines
 - You should aim to make your topics "stand alone"
- Content Management System helps with a lot of these things.

Single Sourcing Principles –*Single Repository Principle*

- **It should only fulfil one purpose/contain one piece of subject matter**
- For instance, if I write a topic that both describes the safety information about an engine, and also how to install it, I'm assigning two responsibilities to this topic. This should be avoided.

Single Sourcing Principles –Abstraction and Generalization

- generic instead of specific
- if you have a chance to make a topic more “generic”, do so.



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SUM UP



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QUESTIONS ?



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thank you!