Stellenbosch University Computer Science Plagiarism and Collaboration Policy Notes

The following two quotes from the discussion of the Stanford Computer Science Honor Code at http://csmajor.stanford.edu/HonorCode.shtml provide context for our plagiarism declaration. The rest of the document is also well worth reading.

> "There is no desire to create a climate in which students feel as if they are under suspicion. The entire point of the Stanford Honor Code is that everyone benefits from working in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Students who deliberately take advantage of that trust, however, poison that atmosphere for everyone. As members of the Stanford community, we all have a responsibility to protect academic integrity for the benefit of the community as a whole. Please resist the temptation to violate the Honor Code by submitting someone else's work as your own."

> "In many cases students take deliberate measures—rewriting comments, changing variable names, etc.—to disguise the fact that their work is copied from someone else. Don't waste your time doing this. There are simple, effective, automated tools that can easily see past such cosmetic changes and determine that copying has occurred. Programming style is highly idiosyncratic, and the chance that two submissions would be the same except for variable names and comments is vanishingly small."

Thus, we expect all programs and written assignments submitted at Stellenbosch University Computer Science to be accompanied by an authenticated declaration of the following:

Hierdie verklaring is slegs in Engels beskikbaar. Indien u enige deel van hierdie dokument nie verstaan nie, kontak so gou moontlik die kursus koördineerder.

Stellenbosch University Computer Science Assignment Declaration

I know that using another person's ideas (including written work and source code) and claiming them as my own constitutes plagiarism. I am aware that the potential penalties for this offence, as specified in the university's policy on academic integrity, may include expulsion from the university and other serious consequences.

1. This submission is entirely my own work, excepting the inclusion of resources explicitly permitted for this assignment, and assistance as noted in the following item.
2. My submission acknowledges the source of all libraries and external sources used, and identifies any other students and/or staff (including demis, tutors, and lecturers) with whom I have discussed this assignment, as well as the extent of those discussions.

Students and staff who helped me, or whom I helped, with debugging, should specifically be listed, as well as what portions of the code were involved. (Note that, unless explicitly stated otherwise, submissions or solutions to assignments in previous courses at this university or any other educational institution which correspond to (significant portions of) this assignment may not be used as external sources - in particular, do not look at or use solutions to assignments from previous years.)

3. I have not allowed, and will not in the future allow, anyone to copy any portion of my work, or give them access to it in any way, since they may have the intention of passing it off as their own work (whether as is, or in a modified form). In addition, I will not make my work publicly available in any way, including posting my code in public source code repositories or forums. (You may, however, allow someone to look at selected portions of your code for the purposes of debugging, but you may not make the code available to him/her otherwise.)

4. I have not and will not facilitate plagiarism, such as by distributing any written work or source code created by a fellow student.

5. I understand that any code I submit may be inspected for plagiarism detection (either manually or by automated systems) and be retained for detecting plagiarism in other courses.

Computer Science / Rekenaarwetenskap
Stellenbosch University / Stellenbosch Universiteit

Revision history since 29 September 2014:
- 29 Sep 2014: Added disclaimer about declaration only being available in English.