COMP 101 Assignment 1 – Semester 1 2017

Deadline: 5pm Friday 28th April
Contribution: 10% of final mark

The goal of this assignment is to demonstrate your understanding of how the structure and representation of information sources can impact on their quality and subsequent use to support decision making. Using the case study introduced in lab 5 and used in subsequent labs, you will discuss the relative merits and weaknesses of common approaches to data storage (multiple documents, flat files, and the relational model).

Deliverables

You are required to submit a short report (of approximately 1000 words) addressing the following questions/items:

1. What are four deficiencies with the data supplied at the start of lab 5? How do each of these issues complicate the use of this data for analysis? Related these issues to the concepts of trust in the underlying information and of "garbage in, garbage out (GIGO)".
2. By the end of lab 5, the data is supplied to the data analyst in a 'flat file' format – what is meant by this approach? Our data analyst, "Sue", has suggested that there may be issues with storing data in this format: discuss two potential issues with the flat file format.
3. Provide a brief overview of the relational model of data (discussed in lectures) and describe how it may overcome the limitations of the flat file approach that you identified in item 2.

Support Materials

To complete this assignment, you will need to have completed the exercises in lab 5, and you will also benefit from completing the exercises in lab 6. You will also gain benefit from reviewing some of the concepts from lectures, particularly lectures 2, and 10-12. You will also be expected to perform a small amount of independent research to address some of the questions/items raised in this assignment – *any sources that you use to support your work must be appropriately cited*.

Submission

All submissions are to be accepted through SafeAssign on Blackboard. The submission link will be made available on Blackboard closer to the submission deadline.

No submissions will be accepted by email, hard copy, or any means other than Blackboard.

All submissions must be proof read and free of spelling and grammatical errors. Any submission that is not presented to an acceptable standard will not be marked and you will be given a mark of zero for the assignment. **Permission to resubmit work when these standards have not been met will be at the discretion of the course coordinator.**

You may need to reference other sources of evidence as part of your writing. So long as the format is consistent throughout the document, and contains all the relevant information, you are free to choose any referencing system (e.g., APA or Harvard).[1]

Late Penalties

Submissions will be accepted after the 5pm deadline. However, **for every hour (or part thereof) that your submission is late, we will scale the final mark of your assignment by 1%** (for example, if your assignment is 19.5 hours late, and your mark for the assignment is 90%, your final scaled mark for the assignment will be 72%.)

Collaboration

We encourage collaborative problem solving and discussion of ideas for this assignment. However, all submitted work must be your own writing. **If you collaborate on this assignment (e.g., as part of a study group at a residential college), then you must declare this collaboration in your report.**

Dishonest Practice

Tools to detect plagiarism and other dishonest practice will be used in the submission and marking of this assignment. Please familiarise yourself with the University's Academic Integrity guidelines before submitting your work (http://www.otago.ac.nz/study/academicintegrity/). Any form of academic misconduct identified as part of this assignment will be dealt with according to these guidelines.

Feedback

An assignment marking schedule will be released closer to the deadline for the assignment to provide an indication of how your work will be assessed. General feedback will be discussed in classes; you may request more detailed feedback if necessary once this has been released.

You are welcome (in fact, encouraged) to ask questions pertaining to the completion of the assignment. However, we cannot provide proof-reading and detailed comments on work before the submission deadline.

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[1] Citation Styles Information: http://www.otago.ac.nz/library/quicklinks/citation/