COMP2013
Systems Engineering I

Groups

Creation

- You will be allocated to a group.
  - And a group manager will be appointed.
  - See list on Moodle.
  - Can't change groups.
- Groups remain the same throughout COMP2013 and COMP2014.

What does the group manager do?

- Responsible for:
    - Making final decisions.
        - After the group has discussed the issues.
    - Allocating tasks to group members.
        - Planning what, when, order, etc.
    - Setting task deadlines.
    - Monitoring the project state.
        - Always maintain an accurate picture of the project.
    - Taking action when needed.
        - Dealing with problems, delays.
    - Being a leader.
        - Leadership not dictatorship.

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Roles

- Other roles include:
    - Deputy group manager.
    - Client Liaison.
    - Technical Lead.
    - Chief Researcher.
    - Chief Editor.
    - plus any other that might be relevant to your project.
        - e.g., hardware designer, cloud services manager

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Major and Minor

- Each group member typically has both:
  - A major role, chief/lead.
  - A minor role, supporting chief/lead, or as a developer.
- Take care to allocate roles evenly.
- As an individual stand up and take responsibility.
  - Don't just do what you want or like.
  - Take the opportunity to try something new.
  - Help and mentor others.
  - Put in your fair share of effort.

Problems

- If the group has problems or a member is not participating.
- Take Action!!
  - Sooner rather than later.
  - The group manager's responsibility.
    - But the rest of the group should provide support.
    - If the manager is the problem, talk to the module lecturers.

Planning

- Plan and allocate tasks carefully.
  - Specify delivery date.
  - Estimating time & effort is hard, be cautious.
- If you commit to a task, be honest.
  - Make sure you can deliver on time.
  - Don't over-commit.
  - Or under-commit.
- Groups typically over-estimate (by quite a lot) how much they can get done!
- Maintaining steady progress is much better than irregular bursts of activity!