**Technical writing assignment**

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**1) In your own words, what is the objective of technical writing, and why may it be useful in the context of a Cloud Computing and Cloud Security course? How might it benefit a business or a clients' users? Anticipated responses would be about 2-3 moderate sized paragraphs.**

Technical writing is a skill that every professional must master. It's the difference between mediocre and excellent communication (in written format). As individuals that work with teams or publish for others to read, it is crucial to master these writing skills. Learning this skill will allow you to convey your ideas, views, observations, instructions, and suggestions in a more professional and practical matter. Technical writing is meant to be used in your day-to-day routine, from writing emails to reports and even presentations. You want to be as straightforward and efficient as possible. Technical writing's purpose is to be precise, relevant, and avoid redundancy.

When considering a career or course in cloud security, technical writing skills stand out as one of the most demanded and needed skills for professionals. Individuals in this field oversee security measures to protect cloud-based infrastructure, applications, and data. Different measures, such as device authentication, data and resource access control, and data privacy, are fundamental for this career. Communicating your work effectively will make a big difference in the outcome. It is advantageous when a professional in this space has superior computer and human language knowledge (such as Spanish, English, German, etc.). Debugging is a common point of reference as to why technical writing is essential. It can make an individual take far less time if there is proper documentation of the code and communication between the team. It takes more time to perform, but it will reduce the time to troubleshoot, especially if it's under urgency. Furthermore, when working directly with clients having superior technical writing skills will make a difference in the relationship and service you provide.

Technical writing skills are a must in the business analytics sector. As a professional in this field, you are in charge of generating knowledge from the collected data. This knowledge might lead to strategy or business development that will significantly impact the enterprise's success. You are bounded ethically, morally, and legally to be able to produce results that serve minimum bias and that are represented as accurately as possible. Making sure that your work can be audited and replicated if need be and ensuring that it is adequately documented to facilitate insights and understanding should be a priority.

We have all heard the saying "time is money," and it wouldn't be to anyone's surprise that this saying came from the business sector. Every business's goal is to reduce the time it takes to perform an activity or service without compromising quality. Technical writing can contribute significantly to this purpose. Effective technical writing skills will generate a significant impact across the board, whether externally when communicating with clients or internally with teams.

**2) How might documentation you write for your own development or operations team (system documentation) differ from the documentation you produce for end users (how to use/operate the system)? Anticipated responses would be about 2-3 moderate sized paragraphs and address the differences in audiences for documentation.**

There is a significant difference when writing documentation for end users and writing documentation for own development or operations teams. This is due to the audience type. As mentioned in the readings, it is imperative that you understand who your audience is and put yourself in their shoes to assimilate what they will read; if you don’t do this, your message might not get across.

When you are writing to an end user, the assumption might be that their subject expertise is limited, so your writing must resemble this. You should be able to write in simple, concise terms that non-technical people can understand. This writing will assist the end user in using or deploying your work in a simple matter for their satisfaction. In many ways, you could state that you provide a surface-level detail to your product that guarantees effective use. Typically, there is a longer writing process since technical terms need to be expanded and adequately explained if used.

Regarding writing for own development or operations teams, the writing styles change considerably. Your audience is different, and you could state that their expertise level is higher. Using key terms, being concise, and appropriately using technical terms will be helpful. Understanding that there isn’t much training in basic concepts should help you reduce the amount of writing and focus on the critical aspects to make your work short and technical. These reports might need a deeper explanation of procedures and materials to convey the message appropriately.

To conclude, it is essential to always think of your target audience and try to resemble your information appropriately. This will be the differential factor in being successful or failing to communicate.

**3) In relation to the material and topics in this assignment, reflect on your own writing experience and capabilities, and consider "what is an area of my own writing, in a technical writing / documentation sense, that can be improved, and what topic from the material can help me accomplish this? Anticipated responses would objectively assess the student's own writing capabilities, identify an area that can be improved, and suggest how they can improve. A length of 1-3 paragraphs would be appropriate.**

Reflecting upon the readings, I identified my areas of improvement in technical writing. Being in school for over 20+ years and having experience in the research field have led me to develop unique writing skills that are not necessarily useful in this industry or writing style. I need to be more concise and to the point in technical writing. My biggest challenge is putting aside my academic writing version and adapting to the professional field. I tend to document everything in extreme detail, yet I realize that this is not necessary in most cases and is not time effective.

The first advice I took from the readings was to read out loud. I have heard this technique over and over in my career, but when partnering it up with putting yourself in the target audience's shoes, it transcends and makes much more sense. This allows me to change my perspective and become a better communicator. One writing style does not work for everything, and I must train myself in multiple writing styles. The following technique, which I realize will help me immensely, is constructing an initial outline. This can serve as my road map to ensure everything that needs to be said and serve as a reminder of my target audience. The third lesson from the readings was writing good sample code. The author states that describing a code with text is like trying to explain an Italian poem in English, which clicked for some reason. I need to be able to create sample codes that are correct and concise. This will allow my reader to understand and easily reuse with minimal side effects quickly.

As far as more technical aspects, I need to get the hang of avoiding anthropomorphism. This refers to attributing human qualities to software. I catch myself doing this consistently, and I need to train myself to do it in writing and when communicating vocally. This will help me improve my overall efficiency and credibility. I can reduce my search time and ensure that the solution is appropriate for my issue. Lastly, the hardest is finding a peer editor, someone I trust to look at my work and help me see mistakes I might have overseen. It must be someone you trust professionally since they are not only criticizing your work but altering your result. You must be careful whom you choose because it can make a big difference in your outcome. Don't forget you ask them to take time out of their schedule to supervise your work, so make sure it's worth your and their time.