**Second Coursework for Internet and Web Technologies module (2012/13)**

The following coursework will be assessed and counts 10% of the final mark for this module.

**The task**

In class, we didn't cover any topics related to network security. This coursework relates to the topic of Virtual Private Networks (VPNs). Your task is to write a report *in your own words* on VPN of about five pages (1200-1500 words). Obviously you can consult books and online resources, but you should rephrase what you find out in your own words or use quotation marks for direct quotes, giving appropriate references. Even where you rephrase material, you should give a reference to the source for the information. The references should not be included in the word/page count.

You are free to structure the report as you wish. However, you should address each of the following topics to some extent:

* Describe the purpose of VPN.
* Compare and contrast the VPN protocols: OpenVPN, PPTP and L2TP/IPSec.
* Discuss in detail how a VPN is implemented using one of the above protocols as an example, with particular reference to the various network layers.
* Discuss the problems and drawbacks of using VPN technologies.
* Describe known security issues with VPN, and make suggestions on how they might be addressed.

**Handing in the coursework**

The deadline for submission is *6pm on Wednesday 23rd January 2013*. Please submit the coursework via Moodle.

Remember that plagiarism is taken very seriously by the Department and the College (see the relevant section in your programme booklet). Consequently, you are required to state the following on the first page of your report: *I confirm that this report is entirely my own work, except where explicitly stated otherwise.*Your report may be submitted to an online plagiarism detection service. The College's disciplinary procedure will be invoked in any cases of suspected plagiarism.

The College policy with regard to late submission of coursework is described in the MSc/MRes programme booklet. No extensions will be granted. The cut-off date for submissions is *6pm on Wednesday 30th January 2013*. Submissions after this date will not be marked. Those submitted after 6pm on the 23rd January and before 6pm on the 30th January, where mitigating circumstances are not accepted, will receive a maximum mark of 50%.

**Marking**

Marks will be awarded out of 20.

Comments on your report, along with the mark you were awarded, should be returned to you within 4 weeks of the cut-off date.