

CASE STUDY GUIDELINES

(COMP 20180 / COMP 30090)

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- **Deadline for forming groups and choosing a case study topic: March 6th**
 - **Report due date: April 10th (5:00pm)**
 - **Submission:** Please submit **one single electronic copy of the report per group, in PDF format**. Submission will be made through SafeAssign (Blackboard) by one student on behalf of the group. The file should be named using the student numbers as follows:

`student#1_student#2_student#3.pdf`

Guidelines

You will research, understand, and compare the implementation of an OS component (for instance: scheduler, memory manager, file system,...) in **two** different real operating systems. The outcome of your case study will be a report of about 3,000 words which will summarise your findings in sufficient detail. This document should be logically structured into sections and subsections, including at least the following ones:

- Cover page: including title, authors, student numbers, and “who wrote what”
- Table of contents
- Introduction
- Systems overview; suggested subsections:
 - features
 - structure
 - hardware/software requirements
 - evolution
 - ...
- Comparisons; suggested subsections:
 - performance

- complexity
- implementation
- advantages and disadvantages
- ...
- Conclusions/Discussion
- References (books, papers, technical reports, websites); references should be cited within the text where needed.

Each case study will be undertaken by a **group of three students**. If you cannot find a group (or a group member), please post a request in the forum which has been set up on Blackboard for that purpose.

Plagiarism

The report contents should be expressed **in your own words** as much as possible (i.e., no copy & paste). Please remember that plagiarism—including plagiarism between two groups—is a serious academic offence. The School has set up a committee to deal with suspected cases of plagiarism. You should explicitly cite your sources whenever needed throughout the report, and list them in the “References” section. Include also references for figures or plots not created by you. Please note that all SafeAssign submissions are automatically checked for plagiarism.

Case Study Choice

Please email felix@ucd.ie by March 6th indicating **the members of the group (including student numbers) and a sorted list of at least three preferred topics**. I will email you back with the topic assigned to you as soon as possible. Proposed topics are available on Blackboard (Assignments section); these will be assigned on a first come, first served basis, as the same topic can only be simultaneously chosen by three groups at most. It is completely acceptable to propose your own topic, as long as you okay it with me.

Report Assessment Criteria

You should clearly show that you have understood the fundamentals of the systems studied. Coherence, readability, and clarity of exposition will also be taken into account. A well-structured and formatted report is a must.

The case study is worth 30% of the overall course mark. The report will be **graded**, and the grade then converted into a mark. The same grade will be given to all group members, as long as the workload is evenly balanced. **The report must clearly indicate the sections that each group member has worked on.**