



Faculty of Science, Engineering and Computing

Assessment Brief

Module: CI4450

Setter: Graeme Jones

Title of Assignment: Technical Report 3

Deadline: 2359 Friday January 10th 2020

Module weighting: 10%

Overview

In this assessment you will be asked to write a two-page technical report on a digital security or intellectual property topic that is relevant to your course and which would demonstrate to a future employer your commitment to protecting digital or intellectual assets.

Relationship of this Assessment to the Module

Communication Skills

One of the key learning outcomes of this module is to enable students to *Communicate effectively within the work environment in terms of written, verbal and presentational skills, be able to search for, critically evaluate and reference appropriately information from a variety of sources* (Kingston University 2019). The *Communications Skills Portfolio* element of assessment (which is worth 30% of the total module mark) will focus on writing skills as well as research and referencing skills; more generally the ability to construct well-crafted and well-researched technical reports. This *Communications Skills Portfolio* element of assessment consists of three assignments each worth 10% i.e. *Technical Report 1*, *Technical Report 2*, and *Technical Report 3*. This third assignment will focus more on research and referencing skills and the ability to develop and articulate reasoned arguments rather than the presentational aspects.

Assessment Specification

Choose a digital security or intellectual property topic that is relevant to your course and which would demonstrate to a future employer your commitment to protecting digital and intellectual assets. A list of example topics is given at the end of this document. You are free to use these or come up with a topic that really interests you. You cannot choose a topic that you have previously tackled in Technical Report 1 and Technical Report 2. It should have a clear digital security or intellectual property theme that you will need to research and discuss critically i.e. explore the issue from a critical stand point. However there is no requirement that you take a specific ethical stance personally. If you select your own topic then you should have it checked by the module delivery team first.

Develop your narrative taking care to clearly explain and justify the key claim(s). Justifications and evidence such be supported by appropriate high quality references. (The majority of your references should not be websites.) You should present your discussion as a technical report using an appropriate structure and written in a suitable format and style as outlined in the accompanying *Communication Skills* lectures. Your report should be no more than 1000 words i.e. roughly two

pages long using a Calibri 11pt font. (It will be marked down if significantly different from this.) It should not contain any pictures, diagrams or tables but you may choose to provide non-written content in the appendices (though these will not contribute to the marks). The word count does not include the text in the references or appendices but does include the title, authors and section titles. You should use Kingston University's Harvard referencing style and you will be penalised if either your citations or references do not conform to this style. PC users are encouraged to use the Word 2010 style file and the technical report template available on the link below. Mac users should adopt some similar simple professional style file.

[Word template for Technical Report 3](#)

Submission Details

You should upload your technical report to the submission box within the Assignments page of the Canvas module by midnight of the day of the deadline. The allowed document types are Word or PDF. (Other formats will be considered on request.)

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Aim to complete and upload the assignment well before the deadline even if it is an early draft. Missing the deadline by even a few minutes will result in a cap of 40%.

If you are ill or have problems which prevent you from meeting the deadline you may be able to negotiate an extension in advance. The University Mitigating Circumstances policy may apply. You will need to use the online Extensions and Mitigation Circumstances system. Remember if you submit a piece of work or attend an examination, you have judged yourself fit to undertake the assessment and cannot claim mitigating circumstances retrospectively.

Assessment Criteria

Marking and the generation of feedback will be performed against the following marking criteria. Within each category the different criteria have equal weighting.

Content (67%)	Digital security or intellectual property topic chosen capable of providing a critical discussion Arguments appropriately structured and supported by evidence Quality (CRAAP) of evidence used to support argument
Presentation (33%)	Appropriate section structure and formatting of a professional quality Referencing and citing accurate and uses the Harvard referencing style Language of a professional quality (style, grammar and spelling)

Academic Misconduct

Plagiarism is presenting somebody else's work as your own. It is an offence to copy materials (even if it is a phrase or a sentence) from the Internet or other work and publications. You must write everything in your own words. *Collusion* is also an offence i.e. allowing another student to use your work even if it is just as a template! There is a heavy penalty for plagiarism and collusion which could see you receiving a ZERO mark and your subsequent academic record may be affected. Further details about plagiarism and referencing can be found at:

[http://www.kingston.ac.uk/aboutkingstonuniversity/howtheuniversityworks/policiesandregulations/documents/Plagiarism %20Student.pdf](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/aboutkingstonuniversity/howtheuniversityworks/policiesandregulations/documents/Plagiarism%20Student.pdf)

References

Kingston University (2019) 'Module Descriptor CI4450 Professional Environments'. Available at: <https://mykingston.kingston.ac.uk/myfaculty/sec/Pages/SEC-Module-Guides.aspx> (Accessed: 03 Sep 2019)

Topic Ideas

- Encryption – a mathematical arms race?
- Authentication – security issues with the public key infrastructure
- Users – the weakest link in business security systems?
- Peer-to-peer – securing digital rights
- Does patenting promote or hinder human progress?
- Minimising vulnerabilities in code – best practice and professionalism
- Invention versus discovery – monetarising equations
- Rights and copyright in digital media
- Are patent wars a justifiable form of commercial competition?

This list will grow so do download this document regularly.