

# COMP3207-1516-cw2-faq

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## **COMP3207 Group Coursework Assignment - FAQ**

### **Q: Should the application work on Linux, Windows, Mac OS X etc?**

A: This is left open to development teams - they must assess the importance of platform-independence to the prospective customer.

### **Q: Should the JavaScript work in all browsers?**

A: Correct execution in Firefox is mandatory. Development teams must assess the importance of other browsers (e.g. Chrome/Safari/Opera/IE) to the prospective customer

### **Q: Can we use other languages?(e.g. a Java client application)**

A: The demo prototype must demonstrate the use of Python and Javascript as set out in the scenario. Java is prohibited, but other languages could be used in addition if necessary. Development teams must assess the attractiveness (or otherwise) of using another language to the prospective customer and no additional credit will be awarded for the use of another language.

### **Q:Can we use JavaScript in a desktop application, or must it run within a browser?**

A: The Javascript must execute on the client application system. That is the only constraint.

### **Q: HELP!**

A: Chris Gutteridge, *webmaster extraordinaire*, has very kindly agreed to assist development teams in their task on a “best endeavours” basis.

### **Q: Will we be given a project definition?**

A: The requirement is to produce a "Cloud Demo Prototype" to demonstrate your expertise with scripting languages and cloud deployment. The customer proposes to award the contract to the team that demonstrates the highest level of expertise. Each team must devise their own individual approach to demonstrating their expertise.

### **Q: Is there a mark scheme available?**

A: About half of the marks will be available for the demonstration. The remaining marks will be awarded based on the five-page report and the quality of the code written (innovative ideas will not necessarily be rewarded). The most important aspect of the demonstration is that it should be successful - so a submission with more innovation would result in lower marks if the additional complexity results in an unsuccessful demonstration.

**Q: Can we use Python 3?**

A: No, all code submitted should be Python 2.

**Q: Can we use a web framework to develop the Python application?**

A. Third-party code can be used in this assignment as long as any third-party IPR issues are respected and the use of the software is acknowledged properly.

**Q: How much detail do we put in the report? Could you look at a draft please?**

A: Sorry, no. The assignment follows (where possible) normal commercial practice - very rarely will a prospective customer review a proposal before submission. The level of detail needs to be "just right" (too much is as unhelpful as too little), although we have restricted the length of the report which should discourage excessive detail. You should use your initiative and prior knowledge about software documentation to provide the customer with the information to convince them that your team should be awarded the contract.

**Q: Can the client-side code (HTML, Javascript) be hosted on the Google App Engine?**

A: Yes.

**Q: Can we have a report cover sheet in addition to the five pages? (It would just contain our names, group letter and e-mail addresses)**

A. Yes.

**Q: Can we see the work submitted by the other teams?**

A: Yes, we will publish all of the reports after the demonstrations.

**Q: We have a resource-intensive demo that is exceeding the quotas on a free Google App Engine account - what can we do?**

A: ECS will consider the provision of paid-for accounts in exceptional circumstances. A business case on a single side of A4 is required, which must explain and fully justify the requirement for additional resources. Submit any applications for such accounts to EJZ.

**Q: How do we obtain access to a VM?**

A: [Virtual Servers information page (<https://secure.ecs.soton.ac.uk/kb/entry/93/>) ]

**Q: Can we continue to work on our software after submission?**

A: **NO!** Not even 'cosmetic' changes (e.g. to comments) can be made (i.e. all filestore timestamps must be before the submission time). The code demonstrated at the presentation must be identical to the code submitted and teams will be asked to certify this in writing.

**Q: Aren't there problems with the Google App Engine? (e.g. see this post (<http://www.carlosble.com/2010/11/goodbye-google-app-engine-gae/>) )**

A: Read the comments! (N.B. The post and comments all date from November 2010.) Finally, remember that the GAE is FREE!

**Q: Can we use Django?**

A: Yes, provided (of course) that it is properly acknowledged. Please bear in mind any restrictions that GAE might place on any application frameworks you might use.

**Q: In the report should we include a contents page?**

A: The optional 'report cover sheet' could include the contents if required.

**Q: In the report can we use footnotes for definitions?**

A: Yes.

**Q: Does our code actually have to work?**

A: Yes! Complete, working code **must** be supplied together with sufficient instructions to allow one of the other teams to get it working.

You will be asked to certify that the code demonstrated is identical to that submitted.

**Q: For the presentation can we provide handouts?**

A: Yes.

**Q: Are we allowed sub-folders in SourceA, SourceB, SourceC?**

A: Yes.

**Q: Is our code required to run from the SourceA, SourceB, SourceC structure?**

A: No - but every line of code actually used must appear somewhere in the submission.

**Q: Is a demo prototype based on a "game" acceptable?**

A: Yes - but a higher implementation standard will be expected

**Q: It was mentioned in the lectures that the .js files will be checked against a code quality tool - which one?**

A: jshint

**Q: Does html and css code count towards the LOC limit?**

A: Yes - these files should be placed in "misc" subdirectories.

**Q: Is there going to be a lecture next week to give some guidance on what is expected for the presentation/demo? If not could you give me a rough idea of the content we are expected to cover?**

A: No, there are no more COMP3207 lectures. Everything you need is on the COMP3207 NotesWiki - the rest is up to you.

If you were pitching to a customer to be awarded a contract, would you ring them up and ask them to give you some guidance on what to include in your presentation? You are in commercial competition with the other teams and you have no idea what they are going to include in their presentations. However, the customer will award the contract on the basis of the presentations.

**Q:What should we do with our test files? We are hesitant to submit them as part of our code since they are not functionally part of the project.**

A: The LOC limit applies to code that is part of your application. Yes, definitely submit your test files but to avoid any confusion put them in a subdirectory 'test' at the same level as sourcea/sourceb/sourcec/readme with a suitable directory structure + notes.

**Q:Are you expecting a list of references in the report?**

A: It is always correct to cite prior work that you refer to or have found useful. We suggest you use footnotes on each relevant page, this works for both URLs and "conventional" academic references.

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