#### Tuesday, 14 March 2017

Hi Folks,

As we're turn the corner into the final furlong of the teaching semester (timely horse-racing metaphor there!), I'd like to respond globally to a few questions I've been asked about Computer Systems 2.

1. Computer Systems 2 is a 50/50 module, which means 50% of your overall grade comes from a final exam and 50% from continuous assessment (CA).

2. The final exam will take place during May in one of the designated exam centres around the college. The exam timetable will be published soon.

3. The exam will be largely based on content covered in lectures, but there is some crossover with lab work. If you do not attend class, you will struggle.

4. The 50% CA is made up of 25% for the NDG Linux material and 25% for a practical exam you'll complete in Week 12. Marks are being awarded for each Chapter Exam and Lab exercise you complete. There's also some marks for the "final" NDG exam, which is based on all the chapters. So you can get a long way to passing the module by completing your weekly activities. The point of doing them in timetabled labs is so that Richard, Deidre and I are there to answer any queries you have and also provide back-up and context  material on whatever topic you're looking at.

Next week, we'll be looking at Virtualisation. For the labs, we're encouraging you to bring in your own laptops, on which you'll install VMWare and subsequently a virtualised Linux machine. Back in January, you should have received an email inviting you to OnTheHub, which is an online software store. You'll need this account to download a fully-licensed copy of VMWare.

Other than that, if anyone has a question, just let me know.

Rob

Monday, 20 March 2017

Hi Folks,

Week 9 of Computer Systems 2 introduces you to Virtualisation. The lecture material will take you through some of the theory, concepts and terminology surrounding virtualisation, whilst the lab exercise challenges you to install a virtual machine on your own laptop.

You will need your own machine with full administrative rights for this lab. If you don't have access to one, you can observe others. You will also need a working copy of a VMWare Personal Desktop virtualisation software. (Workstation for Windows, Fusion for Mac). You would have a received an email invite to the OnTheHub web shop back in January - this allows you to download fully-licensed copies of VMWare software free of charge. This email was sent on the 19th January and would have gone to your @student.wit.ie email account.

When installing an OS, I would recommend selecting lightweight Linux distro, such as Lubuntu. http://lubuntu.me/

Virtualisation encapsulates a lot of what you’ve learned since September. Try and see the connections.

Rob