3rd year projects –
Making the final hurdle

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March 2013
12.3. – Today
25.3. – Easter Break begins
15.4. – Term starts again
30.4. – Project Fair
03.5. – Submission of the Dissertation
Outline

Writing the dissertation

Poster design

Project Fair
Writing the dissertation
Next step: Dissertation-Outline

An example (in part “stolen” from Daniel):

1. Introduction

Increasing software complexity requires more sophisticated testing methods – Data Protection Act prevents use of “real data” \( \sim \) 1st reason for data generation – have “good” test data \( \sim \) 2nd reason for data generation – Industrial Partner: Grid Tools – Project aims: generation of data with trends, demonstrated on Credit Card Fraud, integrated in DataMaker.
2. **Industrial Relation**

Company Grid Tools – Visits and cooperation – Tool DataMaker: What it is for, how it works, what it is programmed in, what its interfaces are – What we know about Credit Card Fraud detection

3. **Testing**

Testing in general, with focus on black-box testing – distinction between test case and test configuration – Decision Tables in testing

4. **Genetic algorithms**

The basic idea – Crossover, mutation, evaluation – . . .

. . .
Meet your supervisor on this **BEFORE**
the Easter Break!
Recommendations

Plan for a
- self-contained
- 40% background – 60% own work
- 60 – 80 pages
document.

Start now! – At least with the outline.
Write background in parallel to producing new results.
Natural overlap with previous documents

Dissertation, Initial Document, Interim Document address

- Motivation of the project
- Background studies
- Technology involved
- First prototype
- Etc.
Relation between these documents

Initial Document / Interim Document:
Premature discussion only.

Dissertation:
• Can re-use texts from previous documents provided they have be re-viewed / altered in the light of the larger experience gained.
• Should demonstrate progress beyond the results already achieved in the earlier documents.
For the rest

See the Project Handbook!
Poster design
Communication situations

Attract attention – Visible selling point.

Short meeting: 30 sec – Main points available.

Long meeting: 2 mins – Interesting details.

M. Roggenbach: Final spurt; March 2013
Your eye catcher?
Content counts!

• What is the project about?
  (topic, motivation, similar projects, . . . )

• What methods were used?
  (programming language, software tools, algorithms, theories, . . . )

• How was the problem solved?
  (software architecture, own algorithms, code examples, . . . )

• What are the results?
  (is the world a better place after this project?)
you have $2 \times 1 \text{ m}$

A4: $\sim 210 \text{ mm} \ 297 \text{ mm}$
A3: $\sim 297\text{mm} \ 420\text{mm}$

what ‘tiling’ do you want?
How to organize things on the poster(s)?

‘poster as slide sequence’:
\[ \Rightarrow \text{prepare a talk and put up your slides} \]

‘poster as one unit’:
\[ \Rightarrow \text{develop one ‘big’ picture on your project} \]
e.g.: star form
(middle: final product, surrounded by ‘aspects’)
Mind Mapping Video

can be found at
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MlabrWv25qQ
Layout: The usual design rules apply

- Large font
- Clear colour scheme / font selection scheme
- Keywords – not novels
- Easy to understand layout
- Have pictures
- No deviating information (‘grandmother’s shoe size’)
Computer demonstrations

Software projects need to demonstrate a ’running system’.

Explanation of your demo:
• What is it demonstrating?
• Why these specific values?
• What will the effect be?
Things to pep up your stand

- Business cards?
- Flyers about your project?
- Mascot?
- Sweets?
- . . .
Project Fair
Poster submission

by 29.4. to blackboard.
Poster printing

• Various copy-shops (e.g., Staples)
• Offers on the internet (e.g. www.a1posters.co.uk)
Three prizes from the department

Best poster prizes based on the vote from
1. School kids – 20 GBP
2. Academic staff – 200 GBP
3. Industry – 200 GBP
Tentative Time-line

10:00-12:00 Set-up of Posters (compulsory)
13:30-14:30 Demonstrations to School Students.
16:00-17:30 Demonstrations to Swansea University (compulsory).
18:00-19:30 Demonstrations to IT Industry (compulsory).

http://cs.swan.ac.uk/~csbob/teaching/projectFair/
On request of IT Wales

Please come
• well dressed (smart casual?)
• well shaved
• with styled hair
• wearing nice perfume
• . . .
Job market for BSc students

1. Have a CV ready [“CV clinic” by Liz from IT Wales]
2. Advertise at the info board
3. Be around for networking
4. Have a handout for your project?
5. Have business cards?
MEng Students – IR project market

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Good luck with your projects!