COMP 491 Assignment 7: Second Draft of Project Report

This assignment is in two parts: Part A (25%) consists of a relatively short document (0.5-2 pages) describing the actions you took to implement the instructor's comments on the first draft of the project report, and any other changes you chose to make; Part B (75%) consists of the second draft of the project report itself -- that is, the document that implements the actions described in Part A.

Part A: Description of changes (25%)

As already mentioned, this part of the assignment consists of a document describing how you have changed the first draft of your project report. It is essential that any substantive comments made by the instructor on the previous draft are addressed. The best way to do this is to list excerpts from the instructor's comments, coupled with the resulting action you took. Here is a fictitious example:

- "inconsistent capitalization of the word 'Java'" -- found and corrected 6 instances of "java" in lowercase
- "several of the requirements are too vague" -- rewrote requirements 1.3, 2.1 and 2.4 using more specific language
- "introduction does not give enough background information about the Wombat programming language" -- added a new section (Section 1.1, pages 2-3) describing Wombat, incorporating several paragraphs of description and several simple examples of Wombat code
- "the design of your Marsupial widget seems inefficient. Can this be reformulated using a quadratic algorithm, rather than the exponential cost of the present design?" -- I believe this can be reformulated to be more efficient, but as this change will require a significant rewrite of the code, it has been deferred until next semester.
- "spelling of Platipus is incorrect" -- I respectfully disagree with the instructor; the software package I am using includes a Platipus class which is deliberately spelt differently to the English word platypus; therefore, in order to maintain consistency with the existing package, this change has not been implemented.

As you can see from the above example, it is not necessary to implement every change recommended by the instructor. You can defer changes until next semester, or explain why the change is not necessary. However, your Part A document must address every recommended change.

In addition, you should describe any other changes you have made (i.e. changes that were not specifically recommended by the instructor). Continuing with our fictitious example, your Part A document might include the following:

- rewrote the second half of the Results section to reflect the experimental data produced in the last two weeks
- added a paragraph in the Conclusion describing an alternative approach to this problem

The suggested length for the Part A document is 0.5-2 pages, preferably in the bullet point format of the above examples. Any reasonable spacing and font size may be used. The grading of this document will

be based on the comprehensiveness of the implemented changes and the clarity of the explanations given.

Part B: Second draft of project report (75%)

This part of the assignment consists of a complete draft of your project report. The specific requirements for the report are identical to the first draft (Assignment 5), except that you are expected to have improved the first draft by implementing some or all of the instructor's suggestions, and also making your own independent improvements. The criteria for grading are also identical to the first draft, except that additional weight will be given to the quality and correctness of the implemented changes to the first draft.

Important note

Even if the instructor did not recommend substantial changes to the first draft, you are expected to significantly enhance your first draft in some way. This might consist of rewriting or amplifying one or more of the weaker sections, and/or adding a few pages of new material.

Submission

Please submit two separate documents to Moodle by the deadline -- one for Part A, and one for Part B. Use an obvious naming scheme for your files, such as `yourname-partA.pdf` and `yourname-partB.pdf`. Any easily-read file types are acceptable, including PDF, Microsoft Word, and OpenOffice.