COMP 492 Assignment 5: Poster Presentation at Science Symposium

Instructions

This assignment has two main components: (i) creating a poster that describes your senior project; and (ii) presenting your poster at the Dickinson Science Research Symposium. You have complete creative freedom to design the poster in any way you wish, and to develop an interesting way of presenting your work to other Dickinson science students and faculty. The following points are suggestions that you may find useful, but they are not requirements:

- There are many software packages suitable for creating posters. One relatively simple option is to create the poster as a single PowerPoint slide. If you choose to use PowerPoint, set the paper size before you begin (design->page setup->custom).
- A custom paper size of 42 inches wide by 33 inches tall is a good choice.
- A sample poster created by the instructor is available (powerpoint, PDF). Feel free to copy or adapt the style of this poster if you wish.
- Most posters contain far too much information. Consider your audience carefully. You will be explaining your project to students and faculty who know no computer science. Most people will spend only 1-2 minutes reading the text on your poster, or listening to you explain that text. Try to summarize the most interesting ideas, challenges and results in your project without including any unnecessary details. The sample poster above is a useful guide to the amount and type of content, but note that this sample poster was targeted at computer science graduate students and faculty.
- If appropriate, consider using a live demo as part of your presentation. You can set up a laptop on a table next to the poster.
- It is probably easiest to have your poster printed at the Dickinson Print Center.
    - Fill out the form available from the Print Center web page, and send them the form by e-mail, attaching your poster.
    - The department has made arrangements to cover the cost of printing your poster, up to a maximum of approximately $20. Please reference "Math/CS Department Science Symposium poster" when submitting the print job.
    - Submit your print request at least five working days in advance of the Symposium. Although the Print Center often completes jobs within 2-3 days, this cannot be guaranteed. Additionally, having a few extra days will give you a chance to correct any problems with the printing process.
- [added 4/1/13] Please provide Jann Ernst (ernstj@dickinson.edu) with the following information no later than Monday, April 8, 2013:
    1. name of student presenting, major and graduation year
    2. full title of presentation
    3. name of faculty mentor (if any)
    4. short abstract of the research (250 words or less)
    5. special requests or accommodations (if any)

Grading

The poster and presentation will be graded according to the following rubric.

- Poster content (40%): Are the objectives and results of the project clear from the poster text and figures? Does the content include interesting scientific or engineering issues? Is the level of detail appropriate for the audience? Is the total amount of content appropriate for the audience? Are technical concepts explained sufficiently?
- Poster style (20%): Is the design of the poster visually appealing? Is it easy to understand the order in which the content should be read? Is the text, including labels on figures, large enough to be legible from a distance of a few feet? Do figures, graphs, and screenshots clearly demonstrate important points about the project?
- Presentation (40%): For the presentation portion of the grade, you will be asked to give a 2-3 minute synopsis of your project to someone who is not familiar with the project, giving a demo if appropriate and answering questions about the project. The instructor will notify you when grading is about to start, and will observe the presentation, but will not participate in it. Grading will include such aspects as: Is the style of the presentation relaxed, unhurried, and engaging? Are the main objectives and results of the project described clearly? Are any scientific ideas or terms defined clearly? Are the main elements of the poster used to assist the explanation? Does the demo (if appropriate) deliver a vivid experience of the project? Are questions answered clearly, and at the appropriate level of detail?