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 Student Research Symposium (DSSRS). Large teams may split into smaller subteams if desired, with each subteam creating and presenting a separate poster. 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 (mostly) 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->slide size->custom).
- For the DSSRS, the recommended paper size is 36 inches tall by 44 inches wide. ~~Honors students who also presenting at the CCSCNE conference should note that the maximum acceptable poster size for the conference is 30x40 inches; it will be easiest to use the smaller size and use the same poster for both events.~~
- 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. However, make sure to change the paper size as described above.
- Most posters contain far too much information. Consider your audience carefully. At the DSSRS, you will be explaining your project to students and faculty who know no computer science. ~~(Honors students should instead target the CCSCNE audience, but do your best to make it accessible to others also).~~ 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.
- Submit your abstract and other information to the DSSRS organizers by the required date. (See the separate email message that was sent out about this.) [Added 2/21/17]
- 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 Print Center will print your poster on a high quality heavyweight paper called "100# matte text."
    - The CS program has made arrangements to cover the cost of printing your poster at the standard size above without any extras such as mounting (this corresponds to a cost of approximately $27); you will be responsible for any additional cost. Please follow the specific instructions that will be emailed to you to submit the print job and ensure that the CS program is billed for the cost.
    - Submit your print request at least five working days in advance of the DSSRS. 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.
- Please submit a PDF copy of your poster to Moodle before the symposium. [added 4/11/17]

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. (In reality, you will give your presentation to the instructor, but you will pretend the instructor is not familiar with the project, and the instructor will ask questions assuming no familiarity with the project too.) 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? Finally, note that for large group projects, the 2-3 minute synopsis of the project can be delivered by one or more representatives of your group, but questions will be addressed to all members of the group. Usually, all group members will receive the same grade, but different grades could be awarded if there are obvious disparities in the level of engagement or quality of answers to questions.