

TELE301 Assignment 1

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Date due: **4pm**, Friday 24th April 2009

Weight: 10%

This assignment is about a very hot topic in the IT sector that is having a major impact on current activities and how we think about server deployment so it's worth-while developing awareness about it. This hot topic is Virtualisation. This assignment in particular, is looking at Server Virtualisation: what it is, why and when we might need it, benefits and costs, and how we can use it.

To help spread the word about virtualisation to the Computer Science students, and to your classmates, you will be creating a self-playing presentation to communicate this information after you have done a suitable amount of research. The University desires its graduates to be adept at communication, and science students tend not to be very good at it. Science communication is an important skill to develop, because you generally need to make technical content understandable to non-technical people, whether it be management, users or the public.

Aim

Create a self-playing presentation using e.g. Keynote/PowerPoint/Impress that communicates the motivation and concepts of server. Find a particular problem related to the field; explore and communicate the problem and potential solutions.

Objectives

- Research what virtualisation is, and develop awareness of terminology.
- **Understand the driving forces and potential benefits that make server virtualisation desirable.**
- **Investigate what makes a virtualisation solution suitable for servers.**
- **In your research, you should come across numerous problems that need to be addressed with regard to virtualisation and its effect on management.** Pick one of these issues; describe it suitably and explore solutions to the problem.
- A one to two page document should accompany the presentation with further explanation and citations in full to show your research sources, using any style you find suitable. Note that you must use primary research sources, so for example, if you use Wikipedia, be sure to look at the sources, and don't just use Wikipedia.
- Consult industry news sources, such as Computer World (issues are available in the common room in Archway West) and Search Data Centre.com (a web-portal that has a lot of pointers to whitepapers etc.)
- You must communicate effectively to your target audience, which is the 200 and 300-level student body in Computer Science. You must not assume familiarity with virtualisation.
- Your communication must be well designed, easily understood and look suitably professional.

- The bullet-points in **bold** above are to be the main themes of your presentation.
- A voice-over is not required, but you may use one if you wish.

Tips

- *Death by PowerPoint (and how to avoid it)* by Alexei Kapterev is a very useful presentation that you should look at both to get some very useful tips and as inspiration. You can find the presentation on the web site www.slideshare.net
- Use illustrations appropriately, along with animations when needed. Think about what you need to communicate.
- Design your structure before working on the first slide of your presentation.
- Aim to create a half-hour presentation (if you were to actually give the presentation).
- I suggest you try to export the presentation as a movie, but if you have trouble, exporting as a series of images will be sufficient. Further information will be released later.
- The lab machines should all have OpenOffice.org Impress installed, but you may prefer to use something else; so long as I can view it on my Mac or in a browser (Shockwave Flash is an acceptable submission format).