

Presentation: Special topic in databases (version 09/28/2010)

Worth: 10%

Learning objectives

- To develop your knowledge and skills for a special topic in database systems
- To develop your skills in presenting technical material and leading group discussions.

Deliverables

The presentation on special topics in databases or data management consists of two deliverables:

1. A two-page essay on the topic, which includes 2-3, key references.
Note: These references should be high-quality, usually peer reviewed, sources from an academic or trade journal. (Please no Wikipedia articles or blog posts.)
2. A micro-presentation in class (5min presentation PLUS 5min for discussion).

You should prepare these special topic presentations in groups of two.

These two deliverables are due on week #9. The exact day and time will be scheduled in class.

In addition, a 1-page proposal should be submitted (see syllabus for date). This 1-page proposal should contain the following:

Team	The names of the two members of Special Topics team
Title	The working title of the Special Topics report
Keywords	A list of 4-5 keywords that characterize the report
Summary	A brief summary of what you plan to discuss in the report
References	A list of 2-3 references that you will draw upon

Topics

You may engage any topic related to data management or databases, wild or pedestrian. That said, please ensure that you describe how the topic is, in fact, related to data management or databases.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to: distributed databases, data warehousing, data mining, object-oriented databases, semi-structured databases, database security, performance comparisons of databases, light-weight database architectures, comparison of database implementations, history of databases, end-user programming of databases, user interfaces for databases, cloud data services and techniques in cloud computing, databases for specific application areas, NoSQL database, stream processing, among others.

Short Essay

The essay should be 500-700 words or so and describe the topic concisely, professionally, and beautifully. The goal is to be descriptive. You may want to consider, especially, how the topic relates to your interests and work in Informatics. A good essay will prompt the reader to read your citations.

Think of this essay as a part of your portfolio, demonstrating your knowledge and interest in databases.

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Presentation

With 3-4 PowerPoint slides, you will present your topic to the class and engage in a brief discussion. The goal is to describe a topic and give us a basic understanding for it and to learn from your work.

Grading criteria

Your grade will be based on a) The quality of the essay; 2) The quality of the 2-4 selected references; 3) The absence of spelling and grammatical errors; and 4) The quality of the presentation and class discussion.