Assignment 2: Team Presentation

1   General Directions

This homework must be done in a group of two people.

See Webcourses and the syllabus for due dates and presentation schedule.

2   What to Turn in

For this assignment, upload a PowerPoint file (or a PDF file if you are using some other presentation software such as Keynote) to Webcourses. The file name should include all names of the team members in your group, starting with the one whose family name is earliest in alphabetical order, with hyphens between the names and a comma separating the two names, followed by a suffix that accurately reflects the file format. For example your file might be named `Jones-Margaret,Smith-Jane.pptx` (or `Doe-John,Zimmer-Frank.pdf`).

Your presentation slides should follow a good outline, as described in class. Your slides should have a bibliography (i.e., a list of the references you consulted), which should appear in a slide (or two) at the end of your talk. You need not actually present these references during the talk, they are there for backup (and further study by those interested).

3   The Assignment

You are to do the following:

1. Select a topic,

2. Confirm your topic by email, and then

3. make a presentation, ideally of 12 minutes, which must be at least 9 minutes long and no more than 14 minutes long on a topic of your choice (see below).

Your presentation must be delivered jointly by your group, with all group members speaking. It is best if everyone speaks for approximately the same amount of time.

3.1   Topic Selection and Confirmation Email

By September 10 (at 11:59pm), you must email the instructor with the subject "Topic selection for homework 2 in COP 4910" with the following information:

1. Your group members' names.

2. The enterprise that your group is imagining that it works for, and the sector you are focusing on within that enterprise (if the enterprise is very large).

3. The problem that your presentation will address.

4. The kind of solution that you will be proposing.

5. The title of your presentation, which should be of the form "Solving ⟨the problem⟩ with ⟨the solution⟩ for ⟨the enterprise⟩", where ⟨the problem⟩ would be replaced by a name (or short description) of the problem you are addressing, ⟨the solution⟩ would be replaced by the name of the solution (approach), and ⟨the enterprise⟩ would be replaced by the name of the enterprise that your group is imagining that it works for.

6. A ranked list of 3 dates that you would like to present on (see the syllabus for the possibilities), with the first being your most highly desired presentation date.

After receiving your email, your instructor will (promptly) email you back to either confirm the topic selection by your group or to ask for changes or clarifications.

The enterprise your group is imagining it works for could be either a business (e.g., Lockheed Martin) or a non-profit organization (e.g., the Red Cross), or a government agency (e.g., the Department of Energy). If the enterprise is very large, then it is best to pick a particular focus (sector) within that enterprise as well. If the enterprise or focus does not yet exist, you will need to define it clearly.

To avoid duplication in topics, you will be required to change your topic if some other group is presenting on the same topic. If two or more groups want to present on the same topic, the first group to send in the email about that topic will be allowed to proceed, and the others will need to make a change. Presentation date preferences will also be honored as best as possible on a first-come-first-served basis.

The problem selected (see above) must be a specific problem that affects the enterprise that your group is imagining it works for. Ideally it should be an important problem that affects the enterprise in a measurable way, or an important ethical or societal problem that affects that enterprise (or customers/clients specific to that enterprise). There must be a business motivation for solving the problem (e.g., increasing revenue or avoiding losses, or lowering costs). The problem must be specific, and not general or nebulous (like "security").

The kind of solution you are proposing (see above) should be an IT solution. The solution may need to be developed in the enterprise, or it may be something that can be purchased. The solution need not be some new hardware or software, it could instead be a new process (way of working). The solution should be specific, not something general (such as "AI").

3.2   Possible Topics

Ideally, the class will learn something new from your presentation, so it is best to choose a problem and solution that reflect recent innovations.

Topics can be chosen based on your interests and background. The course resource page has information that may be helpful for finding topics.

In particular the Gartner Magic Quadrants and Critical Capabilities available when logging in on campus (or through logging in to the UCF library) has various use cases that can be read to understand problems and ranks vendors that provide solutions. These include problems and use cases in the following broad areas:

- Software Infrastructure

- IT Services

- IT Management

- Business Applications

- Operations Management

- Communications Services

Other sources for problems include journal articles and online resources.

Other broad areas to think about to find more specific problems include:

1. Accessibility and inclusion issues

2. Security issues

3. Privacy issues

4. Customer Experience issues

5. Healthcare and wellness issues (both for customers and employees)

6. Competition and disruption from use of AI

7. Competition and disruption from use of DevOps or Cloud Computing

If you find yourself thinking more about a solution (say blockchain) instead of a problem, think about what kind of problems that solution can be used for and explore that.

The Gartner Hype Cycles and Technical Insights can give some ideas of potential solutions. Other sources for solutions include journal articles and online resources.

3.3 The Presentation

You should practice your talk and aim to be able to deliver it in the allotted time. Note that you may tend to talk more quickly in front of the class, so allow for that.

Make sure that each person has the slides, so that you can proceed with the presentation in case one person has difficulties (e.g., with the network).

No videos are allowed in a presentation. You may show pictures from a video in your slides if you credit them properly (and have permission).

Grading

This assignment is worth 100 points distributed as:

- 10 points: length of time (neither too long or too short, as specified above); for every minute over the maximum you will lose 5 points and for every minute under the maximum you will lose 5 points.

- 10 points: eye contact with audience; we will take points off if you read from your slides, depending on the severity of the issue.

- 10 points: voice volume; we will take points off if you do not speak loudly enough or speak too loudly.

- 10 points: presentation slides; if slides are too wordy or have other distractions, then we will take points off, depending on the severity of the issue.

- 40 points: clarity of presentation with

    - 10 points for a good outline (problem, solution, consequences)
    - 10 points for a clear presentation of the problem
    - 10 points for a clear presentation of the solution (approach)
    - 10 points for a clear presentation of the consequences of the solution on the enterprise and on society (or the world)

- 10 points: clarity of analysis and thought, critical thinking; we will take points off for analysis that is not thoughtful (i.e., that is glib or facile).

- 10 points: bibliography (i.e., a list of the references you consulted), which should appear in a slide (or two) at the end of your talk. You need not actually present these references during the talk, they are there for backup (and further study by those interested). For maximum points you must have at least 2 references in your bibliography.

Both group members will receive the same points for the presentation.
There will be the usual penalties for being late or not prepared or missing class.