THE PAPER

Paper Deadlines:
1. The main deadline for all options is Friday June 5 (the last day of classes.)
2. Bonus deadline: Wednesday May 27. For +10% bonus points. (I.e. if your base score (based on the quality of the contents of the paper) is 70, then the bonus would give you a score of 77.) If you make this deadline I will read the paper and give you feedback before the main deadline so that major problems could be corrected by then.
3. Talk bonus deadline: Friday May 22 (MWF section) and Wednesday May 27 (MW section). If you give your talk by these deadlines, you will get +10% bonus on your talk score. (See above for what this means). This will also allow you to get feedback on what you are thinking about putting into your paper.

Paper Size: I am looking a paper of about 2000 words for any of the styles described below. Some specific topics may take more to say what you need to say.

Paper Contents: You have three options as to the style of your paper. See the TALK section below on choosing and getting approval for the specific topic of your paper (and talk).

Option S. In this option, choose some impact of the use of computers on society as a whole or some significant portion of society. The impact can be either positive or negative, and either in the past, currently, or projected for the future.

• Describe the computer development that caused the impact.
• Describe the impact upon society. This implies there was (or is or will be) some change in the culture or people’s lives and that in turn implies a discussion of “before” and “after” the computer development.
• While the emphasis of this option is on social impacts, we do not want to ignore the ethical dimension, so include a section where you briefly discuss what portion(s) of the ACM and SE codes of ethics that could apply. If you think none would apply, briefly discuss why you think that.
• Cite authoritative sources for facts and projections.
**Option W.** In this option, you will fact check a page from wikipedia.

- This would involve following all references and verifying that they support the text to which they are attached in the wikipedia article.
- This would also involve exploring statements that do NOT have references in the article to see if they are supportable by sources not mentioned in the article.
- If you cannot find support this would be described in a section of describing the extent of questionable statements in the article.
- Approval of this option must specify the page and you should allow a day for me to look at the page and decide if it would be appropriate for this paper. (I am worried most about size, either too big or too small.)
- While the emphasis of this option is on evaluating the page, we do not want to ignore the ethical dimension, so include a section where you briefly discuss if portion(s) of the ACM and SE codes of ethics that could apply, and if so what they are. If you think none would apply, briefly discuss why you think that.

**Option C.** This option is to write a paper in the style of a “classic” Dr. Turner paper. The PolyLearn page has a sample paper in this form, though your paper will likely be smaller than the sample because of my timing of assigning the paper.

- This paper is to propose and answer a question of the form: “Is <event or action> ethical according to the SE Code of Ethics”. (For example (“Is The Silkroad website ethical?”)).
- The general outline of this paper is
  1. The question.
  2. The facts of the situation
  3. Show that the Code applies to the situation.
  4. Evaluate the situation according to one Code principle and state
     -- whether the analysis supports (it ethical) or opposes (its not ethical) the action.
     -- if you think the situation lends itself to controversy such that one section supports the action and another opposes the action, then go ahead and discuss those two sections and then conclude which side you agree with.
- While the paper emphasizes the SE Code of ethics, also briefly discuss if there is a corresponding principle in the ACM code of ethics.

**ORAL PRESENTATION OF YOUR PAPAR TOPIC**

- **An oral presentation (of approximately 10 minutes)** on the topic of your paper. The date of your talk must be scheduled in advance; topics must be approved at least one week in advance of the talk. Proposal and approval of topics and dates will **only** be done through e-mail. In case of multiple requests for the same topic or date in the same section, first time-stamp on the e-mail wins.
• **Pre-Talk Deadlines:**
  1. **Overheads** must be preapproved by the instructor at least two weekdays prior to the presentation. (E.g., approval no later than Thursday for a Monday talk.)

      This allows time for you to modify the overheads if necessary before final approval. You may sign up for a date without a topic or a topic without a date, but all respective deadlines must be met before the talk is given.

  2. **Topics** must be approved at least one week in advance of the talk.

• **Failure to meet these two approval deadlines will result in the cancellation of the talk.** Note that timeslots for these talks are limited and that failure to give the talk will result in failing the class due to lack of the grading category.

• **Scheduling of Talks:** We will mainly schedule talks for the lab time.
  a. For 50 minute labs (MWF) up to four talks per day can be scheduled. For 80 minute labs (MW) up to seven talks per day can be scheduled.
  b. For the last week of the class, both lecture and lab time can be used for talks. The exception is the last day of class where at least the last 20 minutes will be reserved for course evaluations, so there will be room for two fewer talks.

• **Approval of the overheads** must be done **in person in my office** -- no e-mails or dropped-off copies will be allowed. Also please bring hard-copy so that I can write on the draft pages. These requirements are so that I can make comments and ask questions about the details of the slides and your presentation. Rough drafts (even hand-written ones) are acceptable for my first viewing of the slides, but the rougher the initial draft, the more likely approval will be delayed to another time.