

INFO1010

Coursework Three – Group Presentation Topics

Task Overview

Each group will work together to develop a ten-minute PowerPoint presentation on their nominated topic.

The length of the presentation will be ten minutes for groups of up to five people, and an additional two minutes per person in excess of five in the group. (i.e. 6 people get 12 minutes and so on)

Further guidance on the structure, expected content can be derived from the marking scheme and through your participation in the group class activity.

Select your proposed presentation from one of the topics listed at the end of the task overview.

Each question has a single word topic tag. The question is designed to steer the direction of your research.

Each group should conduct some research, to address the question. You will identify credible sources which can be used to provide evidence around which to structure their presentation.

The slides

- You are free to choose whatever presentation software you wish. Your objective is to use that software in a professional manner as indicated by the mark sheet.
- There is no specific limit on the number of slides, however:
 - Your title slide should include your group name, your tutor name, the name of all the presenters
 - One slide should include a picture of all the presenters (group of headshots) with each presenter clearly identified.
 - One slide should include a summary of all the reference you have used in the presentation. You can also include references to any background reading.

Your choice

You will be asked to indicate your choice and preferences via an online form. The web address for the form will be sent in a subsequent email.

You should indicate your first, second and third choice

Please read all of the options and discuss your choice with your fellow tutees. You may wish to discuss your choice of presentation with your personal tutor, but this is not a requirement.

The voting will be closed three days after the poll is opened, so you will need to make your initial decision promptly. This is designed to give you maximum preparation time.

Security, Legal and Ethical Issues

1. Hackers:
Malicious hacking makes companies increase their security, while 'ethical' hackers claim to work for social and political good. Can hacking ever result in positive outcomes?
2. Security:
People are careless with passwords; laptops have been stolen; memory sticks have been left on trains, these actions compromise sensitive personal, commercial and governmental data. How can or should organisations address these issues?
3. Phishing:
Attacks using phishing can be launched via sources as diverse as games, tax returns, online shopping and banking sites. Is avoiding online transactions the only way to protect users from this threat?
4. Peer-to-peer
Are peer-to-peer services like BitTorrent necessarily only ever evidence of illegal or ethically dubious activity, or can they be used for legitimate and legal purposes online?

Digital Society

5. Information Overload:
Never mind global warming and climate change, is it true that the biggest threats to our society are the consequences of the information overload caused by our reliance on email, the web and pervasive social networks?
6. Future Communication:
More and more people are living their lives online. Children and teenagers spend hours 'chatting online' or playing computer games. Teachers use 'e-learning' and businesses use emails and online chat. Are we in danger of losing the art of face-to-face communication, and what will be the consequences?
7. Government Control:
Do governments have a right to control their citizens' access to the Internet?
8. Digital Natives:
Students who have never known life without computers and the Internet. Teachers and other people from earlier generation have a very different view of the world, are there really two types of people: digital natives and digital immigrants?
9. Identity Theft:
Is the risk of identity theft an unavoidable and underplayed consequence of living a life online because we inadvertently give away too much information?
10. Digital Divide:
The divide between the 'haves' and the 'have not's' exists between individuals, and between regions and countries. Does financial inequality overflow into digital inequality, if so with what consequences?
11. Human Computer Interaction:
Do meeting the requirements of the Disabilities Discrimination Act have any beneficial impact for the wider community of computer users?

Information Paradigms

12. Open Source:
Can Open Source software ever offer a viable alternative to proprietary software?
13. Digital Rights Management:
Is Digital Rights Management a sensible method of ensuring reward streams in a digital world, or is it a vehicle for manufacturers to tie users into their products?
14. Open Educational Resources:
Academics are being asked to make their lecture notes 'Open Access'. What are government's motivations for this request and what are some possible reasons for opposing this change.

Education and Technology

15. Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL):
Some argue that teachers should stop learning about education and get to grips with technology. The future shape of education is more likely to be determined by technology than out-dated practices like lectures, tutorials and supervisions. Is attendance at university really necessary to study for a degree?
16. Biologically Inspired Computing:
Computer science theory has been in danger of becoming moribund, it is argued that the real revolution

in computer science lies in learning from successful biological systems. What can computer scientists learn from Biology and the life sciences?

17. Web Science:

Some would say that understanding the web is more important than understanding computer science. Web Science: "the theory and practice of social machines" is a discipline which studies the web from many different perspectives. Will Web Science ever replace Computer Science in University degrees?

18. Many commentators are arguing that if we want to successfully create the next generation of computer and IT graduates and professionals we need to teach children programming in schools. What changes could realistically be made to school education to help recruit a greater number and more diverse range of students onto computing and IT degrees?

19. Women in IT:

There has a dearth in applications from female students for computing degrees. How does this matter to business and society in the UK?

Digital Present – Digital Futures - Systems and Technologies

20. Mobile Computing:

Mobile broadband is just a way to get more money from smartphones. Do we really need need broadband mobile and if so, why?

21. Technology Domination:

Companies like Google and Facebook seem to have made their products indispensable to our everyday lives. Is it true in fact that their users experience is less important than their data and they only exist to earn income from their advertisers?

22. Open Systems:

Some people love Apple, others hate them. Is Apple trying to hook people into closed systems just like IBM did in the late 20th century?

23. Social Computing and Web 2.0:

People talk about the social web and Web 2.0 changing the world. Is Web 2.0 a technological revolution, commercial hype or a distinct step towards future generations of the World Wide Web?

24. Green ICT:

It is argued that the world (especially the most developed nations) needs to adopt sustainable approaches to technology use in every aspect of human activity. How can Implementing Green ICT applications help address the possible challenges of climate change?

25. Future Computing:

Tim Berners-Lee's vision of the web is far more complex than the everyday web we currently experience. What is Web 3.0 and how might it change the shape of the web as we know it?

26. Augmented systems:

Concepts such as augmented reality and augmented cognition have been discussed and exemplar systems have been developed. Does the future of technology really lie in systems which augment human capabilities, and if so how and why?

27. The end of business travel

The health service has saved millions of pounds introducing virtual meetings, cutting travel, saving time and making better use of precious staff skills. Should we use technology to us redesign business processes? What changes would make the most impact and why? Are there reasons to stick to traditional approaches?

Working in IT

28. Technology Degrees:

Are subjects like computer science and other technology based degrees a better choice than a business or accountancy degree if you want a good career?

29. Skills shortage:

There is a skills shortage in the IT industry, and women make up a very small percentage of IT professionals What should be done to reduce the shortage? Is it worth making special efforts to recruit females?

30. Geek Culture:

Much popular media depicts people from IT and computing backgrounds in a negative light, and with little or no relation to the truth. At the same time there is a strong positive geek culture in areas such as gaming, fiction, film and video. Do we need action to challenge the popular media stereotypes? If so how would you depict IT to the world?