

CSCI 1200 / ASSC 1000 Assignment #1

Due date: Friday, September, 25th, 2:30pm.

Hand in: This assignment must be submitted electronically, on [Dalhousie BLS](http://its.dal.ca/services/other_services/ILO/index.html) (http://its.dal.ca/services/other_services/ILO/index.html), and not as hard copy in class.

Notes:

- Read the Dalhousie Policy on Plagiarism.
- All course assessments including labs, assignments and exercises must be handed in on time by the specified due date. Work handed in late will not be considered and will be graded zero.
- All grades for all assessments are final and not subject to negotiation. Changes to grades will only be made when an error has been made in the addition of marks.
- You are not allowed to use Wikipedia. You are encouraged to use other internet resources. But you must cite any material used and do not copy material. Use your own words!
- Answers will be graded on quality and completeness.
- If you're comfortable doing this without help from the TA, you may do it on your own. In that case, you do not need to attend a lab session, your work will be verified based on your submitted document. But, you will not be given any additional help if you do not attend your lab!

Weighting in Course = 3%

Part I: [4 marks] In this part, you are to become familiar with using the computers in the lab, reading and sending e-mail, and using [Dalhousie BLS](http://its.dal.ca/services/other_services/ILO/index.html) to submit work.

You should do the following:

- Check your Dal e-mail. You should have a message from me with some information in it.
- Reply to this message to indicate that you have received it. If you did not get this e-mail, mail me directly at sbrooks@cs.dal.ca . Include your Banner ID in your e-mail.
- Create a document using Microsoft NotePad. In this document, include the following:
 - Your name
 - Your Banner ID

- Your Dal e-mail address
- The information specified in the e-mail message you received from me
- A short paragraph describing what previous experience you have had using computers.
- Submit this document on [Dalhousie BLS](#)

Part II: [26 marks] In this part you are to become familiar with using some resources for finding technical information on the Web.

- Create another NotePad document. Copy the following questions into the textfile and *briefly* answer them, using the online resources named in each question.
 - Write the answers in complete sentences in your own words; do not simply copy and paste.
 - Submit this document on [Dalhousie BLS](#)
1. *Free On-Line Dictionary of Computing (FOLDOC)*
 - a) In terms of hardware architecture, what does USB stand for?
 - b) What is the maximum speed of USB 2.0?
 - c) What does MBps stand for?
 - d) What does mbps stand for?
 - e) Which version of Windows was the first to include support for USB?
 2. *Computer User High-Tech Dictionary*
 - a) Lookup a definition for USB.
 3. *Dictionary of Algorithms and Data Structures*
 - a) This dictionary comes from NIST. What does NIST stand for?
 - b) In the context of a stack data structure, what does LIFO refer to?
 4. *NetLingo*
 - a) Lookup 802.11g. What does it refer to?
 - b) Between 802.11b and 802.11g, which is slowest?
 - c) Lookup USB. Do Macintosh computers support the USB standard?
 - d) Lookup HTML, what kind of language is it?
 - e) How is a mark-up language different than a programming language?
 - f) Can you find the name of a bridge language between HTML and XML?
 5. *TechEncyclopedia (<http://www.techweb.com/encyclopedia/>)*
 - a) What does TCP/IP stand for?

- b) The TCP part does what?
 - c) The IP part does what?
 - d) Between 12 Mbits/sec and 1.5 Mbytes/sec, which is faster?
6. *Webopedia*
- a) What is a "dead pixel"?
 - b) Lookup USB. What event is associated with the acceptance of the USB?
 - c) Lookup USB 2.0 and find out when the Hi-Speed USB was released.
 - d) Which companies led the initiative to develop a higher data transfer rate?
7. *WhatIs.com*
- Search for MP3. In looking for the results, you will have to scroll down below the sponsored links.
- a) Compared to the original audio file, an MP3 is how much smaller?
 - b) You would expect to "download and play" or "link and listen" to an MP3?
 - c) What is a WAV file?
 - d) Who created the WAV file?
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Part III: [10 marks] Take a look at the information on computers listed on www.aliware.com. Look particularly at the Tech Specs for the ALX X58. (You might need to look up other websites if the terminology is unfamiliar). Then do the following:

- Create another NotePad document. Copy the following questions into the textfile and *briefly* answer them, using the online resources named in each question.
 - Write the answers in complete sentences in your own words; do not simply copy and paste.
 - Submit this document on [Dalhousie BLS](#)
1. *How much Video memory does this computer come with on the single GPU graphics card?*
 2. *What is the highest CPU clock speed of this computer?*
 3. *What is the maximum RAM that the computer can be configured for?*
 4. *What is the speed of the fastest hard drive that this computer can have?*

5. *How many audio channels does the standard sound card support?*
6. *How many USB ports does it have?*
7. *How many firewire ports does it have? (you may need to look up this word separately)*
8. *What sort of optical drives are available?*
9. *What operating systems are available?*
10. *What is the Wattage of the standard power supply?*