Overview

This quiz is optional, and your grade on it will replace your lowest quiz grade. Overall, the main goal of this assignment is to get your suggestions on how to improve the course.

There are 21 questions for a total of 33 points. You should submit your solutions to this quiz at the start of the final exam. Even though many of these questions are open-ended, you should take this seriously: mediocre and vague feedback will receive only partial credit.

1 Feedback

Take a look at http://einstein.etsu.edu/jenkinss/4417/spring-2003-eval.pdf for my thoughts on how the Spring 2003 version of this course went, and then give your feedback on the following aspects.

1.1 Assignments

1. (10 points) For each assignment below, answer the following two questions:

1. Estimate the number of hours you spent preparing for the lab
2. Estimate the number of hours you spent working on the lab

Assignments

1. Lab design
2. Operating System Installation
3. Basic Network Services: DHCP, DNS, SMB (from Windows), and NFS
4. Samba, HTTP, FTP, and IIS Security
5. Users, Groups

6. Windows software installation

7. Linux software management (pre-lab assignment)

8. Linux software management (lab assignment)

9. NIS and `nsswitch.conf`

10. Security

2. (1 point) Which assignment was the most interesting to you?

3. (1 point) Which assignment was the most difficult?

4. (1 point) I combined what were previously two system installation assignments into a cookbook exercise so that we have more time for other labs. Give me your feedback on how that worked out. Please keep in mind that as 2150 is a prerequisite for the course, the expectation is that every student is able to perform a single operating installation at the start of the course.

5. (1 point) I’ve significantly reduced the scripting exercises on both platforms as the expectation is that you’ve learned programming in other courses and would be able to pick up scripting on your own. However, my experience this semester has been that students as a whole need additional practice within 4417/5417 in scripting, so I will likely go back to having two separate scripting assignments (one per platform). Give me your feedback on that idea.

6. I have received some individual feedback on the prerequisite of CSCI 2235 (Introduction to Unix) and would like to explore ways of improving the transition.

   (a) (1 point) Should there be a pre-test at the beginning of 4417 on Unix skills?

   (b) (1 point) Please give me suggestions on how to improve either CSCI 2235 (with respect to the needs of CSCI 4417/5417) or the transition from 2235 to 4417/5417.

7. Next Fall, we are hoping to get funding to upgrade the labs so that we can use VMware or VirtualPC and do away with the requirement to coordinate with a group on the assignments that require more than a single host. System Administration, however, is not a purely technical discipline – it requires SAs to work with others.

   (a) (1 point) What is the right balance between individual and group assignments? (expressed as a percentage)

   (b) (1 point) Which assignments should be group assignments?

   (c) (1 point) Which assignments should not be group assignments?

8. (1 point) What one topic would you suggest be dropped from 4417/5417 that we covered this semester?
9. (1 point) What one topic would you like to see covered in 4417/5417 that we have not covered this semester (i.e., if we dropped something, what should we put in its place).

10. (1 point) Someone suggested adding a new module to CSCI 4800 (the IT Capstone) class where instead of either helping with CSCI 1100 or volunteering to do IT support in an area K-12 school, a student could be a 4417/5417 mentor. Give your feedback on that (including a description of how you think the logistics could work out).

1.2 Quizzes

11. (1 point) Were the quizzes useful in helping you know if you understood the material?

12. (1 point) Were the quizzes useful in helping you prepare for the exam?

13. (1 point) Should the quizzes be dropped from the course, or perhaps rolled into assignments so that we could spend less time in class doing the mechanics of the quizzes?

1.3 References

14. (1 point) Estimate how many times you actually opened the Windows reference.

15. (1 point) Estimate how many times you actually opened the Linux reference.

16. (1 point) Should both of the texts be required? If no, which should be required?

17. (1 point) Which of the lecture notes were the most helpful?

18. (1 point) Which of the lecture notes were the least helpful?

19. (1 point) I provide lecture notes with references for reading; however, I find that many students don’t read the references. This often causes students to significantly struggle in the labs. I experimented with having an assignment that would give you credit for doing the reading. Give me your feedback on how well that worked.

20. (1 point) As a follow-up to the previous question, I’m considering making assignments next Fall in two parts: reading assignment and lab assignment. The reading assignment will be over the upcoming assignment, not the current one. In other words, you won’t be able to do the lab, then do the reading. Give me your feedback on that.

21. (1 point) Give a suggestion as to how I could do things differently to make the readings more relevant to the students.