For this assignment, you are asked to read a journal paper in your field and write a one page review focusing on the presentation of the material.

Paper Selection

You may choose any paper published in a CE/CS/EE journal. There are only a few requirements:

1. The journal article must contain original results. That is, it should not be a survey or review of existing work.
2. Try to select a paper from one of the top journals in your field. If you are not sure, check the publication pages of faculty in your field and see where they publish. If you are still not sure, please post a question on the course Forum and we will try to help.
3. The paper should be at least 5 pages long. This is to avoid “letter” style and short papers which tend to have a different organization than normal journal papers.

If you are lost, here are a few papers we can suggest for your reading. While all of these are citation classics in their respective fields, not all of them are the best examples for presentation. Don’t let the reputation of the authors influence your review!

2. Cerf and Kahn, “A Protocol for Packet Network Intercommunication,” IEEE Transactions on Communications, May 1974 (this is the paper that defined the architectural foundation of the Internet. It does not require much background to read.).

Review

Your review of the paper should comment on the presentation of the material, not the technical contribution. The following are some of the questions you should address in your review:

- What are some of the hindrances that you came across while reading the paper? How could they be improved?
- Did the Abstract provide a clear summary of the work? Did it state the problem, the contributions and the utility of the results?
• Did the Introduction describe the problem clearly, summarize previous work and establish the context for the paper?
• Did the Introduction provide a roadmap of the paper and state what is covered in each of the following sections?
• Did the Conclusions section summarize the results? Did it describe the consequences of the results and where the work leads to?
• In the body of the paper, did each section provide a summary of what is ahead right at the start? Did it lead into the next section at the end?
• Did the authors use any highlighting techniques? Were they effective?
• Are there any examples of “Twice Told” in the paper? If not, are there key concepts in the paper that were not clear, whose presentation could be improved by being told twice?
• How did the authors prove the value of their contributions? (mathematical proofs, performance data, etc.)

Your review should be 1-2 pages long and summarize your observations related to the questions above.

References

Slides from the 11/18 class are posted online.

If you find reading a journal paper difficult, you are not alone! The article below by Keshav provides some useful tips on how to read a paper and it is a must-read for anyone starting research. For this homework, the first pass should be adequate.


Submission

Submit your review to eCommons as single PDF file before 4 PM on December 2.