Cloud Computing
BUCI029H7

Coursework description, guidelines and marking scheme

1. Introduction

The goal of the coursework is to help you appreciate how concepts, software development methods and frameworks taught in class can be applied to develop a Cloud Software as a Service (SaaS). The coursework requires you to install, develop, deploy, and test a Cloud SaaS in a virtualized environment according to the guidelines described in this document. You should upload your final scripts and a technical report to describe the functionality of your solution following the guidelines of the coursework brief document.

By completing this coursework students will get experience on applying Python programming language to develop a Cloud Software as a Service.

The assignment is further explained in Sections 2 below. Section 3 of this document gives you an example of how to structure your report and explains the marking scheme. Section 4 presents the deadlines and submission instructions. Section 5 explains the penalties for late submissions, and Section 6 explains how the College deals with plagiarism. Section 7 and Section 8 provide additional information on learning resources and referencing.

2. Description of the work

Students should refer to the coursework document named as **Cloud Computing Coursework.pdf** that is available on Moodle.

3. Submission and marking scheme

Students expect to submit scripts and a report as described in the coursework document.

The deadline for coursework submission is on the Moodle submissions page.

Please always refer to the Moodle page for the coursework deadlines.

Coursework marks are awarded per task basis as shown in the coursework document.

4. Deadlines and submission instructions

Submission is only through Moodle. Students should upload (a) the Python source codes of your solutions and (b) a technical report. About the technical annex: please use your judgement on the right amount of data and length of presentation for a technical description of your solution. There is no limit for the report size. Students will submit technical annex in a PDF or MS Word format. Please use an easy-to-read style similar to that of this document (Arial font or similar, size 12 or bigger).

Students should upload on Moodle the completed assignment by the date referred in Moodle (this is Moodle time not your PC's time). In case you are planning to upload your files whilst at a remote location make sure you check Moodle's time and take into account time zone differences.

It is your responsibility to ensure that files transferred from your own machines are in the correct format and that any programs execute as intended on Department's systems prior to the submission date.

Each piece of submitted work MUST also have a page entitled "Academic Declaration" by the author that certifies that the author has read and understood the sections of plagiarism in the document http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/rules/Assessment%20Offences.pdf that describes College's Policy on assessment offences. Confirm that the work is your own, with the work of others fully acknowledged. Submissions must also be accompanied by a declaration giving us permission to submit your report to the plagiarism testing database that the College is using.

Reports without a Declaration form are not considered as completed assignments and are not marked.

The Academic Declaration should read as follows: "I have read and understood the sections of plagiarism in the College Policy on assessment offences and confirm that the work is my own, with the work of others clearly acknowledged. I give my permission to submit my report to the plagiarism testing database that the College is using and test it using plagiarism detection software, search engines or meta-searching software."

You should note that all original material is retained by the Department for reference by internal and external examiners when moderating and standardising the overall marks after the end of the module.

5. Late coursework

It is our policy to accept and mark late submissions of coursework. You do not need to negotiate new deadlines and there is no need to obtain prior consent of the module lecturer.

We will accept and mark late items of coursework up to and including seven working days after the normal deadline (this is Moodle time not your PC's time). In case you are planning to upload your files whilst at a remote location make sure you check the Blackboard time and take into account time zone differences). **This is the absolute cut-off deadline for coursework submission.**

However, penalty applies on late submissions. Thus, the maximum mark one can get in the coursework is 50%. If you believe you have good cause to be excused the penalty for late submission of your coursework, you must make a written request using a mitigating circumstances application form and attach any evidence. Your form should be handed in or emailed to the MSc Programme Administrator (with a carbon copy to the module lecturer and the Programme Director) as soon as possible, ideally that is by the cut-off deadline. This letter/email does not need to be submitted at the same time as you submit the coursework itself.

Even if the personal circumstances that prevented you from submitting the coursework by the last day are extreme, **the Department will not accept coursework after this date**. We will, naturally, be very sympathetic, and the MSc Programme Director will be happy to discuss ways in which you can proceed with your studies, but please do not ask us to accept coursework after this date; we will not be able to as there is a College-wide procedure for managing late submissions and extenuating circumstances in student assessment. As soon as you know that you will not be able to meet the deadline, it will be useful for you to inform the module lecturer. They will be able to advise you on how best to proceed. Another person to speak to, particularly if the problem is serious, is the MSc Programme Director. You will then have the opportunity to discuss various options as to how best to continue your studies.

Further details concerning the rules and regulations with regard to all matters concerning assessment (which naturally includes coursework), you should consult College Regulations at http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/rules. **Please see the programme booklet for the rules governing Late Submissions and consideration of Mitigating Circumstances and the Policy for Mitigating Circumstances at the College's website** http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/rules.

6. Plagiarism

The College defines plagiarism as "copying a whole or substantial parts of a paper from a source text (e.g. a web site, journal article, book or encyclopedia), without proper acknowledgement; paraphrasing of another's piece of work closely, with minor changes but with the essential meaning, form and/or progression of ideas maintained; piecing together sections of the work of others into a new whole; procuring a paper from a company or essay bank (including Internet sites); submitting another student's work, with or without that student's knowledge; submitting a paper written by someone else (e.g. a peer or relative), and passing it off as one's own; representing a piece of joint or group work as one's own".

The College considers plagiarism a serious offence, and as such it warrants disciplinary action. This is particularly important in assessed pieces of work where the plagiarism goes so far as to dishonestly claim credit for ideas that have been taken from someone else.

Each piece of submitted work MUST have an "Academic Declaration" form signed by the student which certifies that the students have read and understood the sections of plagiarism in the College Regulation and confirm that the work is their own, with the work of others fully acknowledged. Submissions must be also accompanied by a declaration giving us permission to submit coursework to a plagiarism testing database that the College is subscribed.

If you submit work without acknowledgement or reference of other students (or other people), then this is one of the most serious forms of plagiarism. When you wish to include material that is not the result of your own efforts alone, **you should make a reference to their contribution, just as if that were a published piece of work**. You should put a clear acknowledgement (either in the text itself, or as a footnote) identifying the students that you have worked with, and the contribution that they have made to your submission.

7. Referencing

References include the full bibliographic information about the source, such as the author(s)'s name(s), date of publication, title of work, place of publication, and publisher. This information is usually given in the section called Reference List or Bibliography at the end of the text. The key principle is that you should give enough information to allow another person to find the source for themselves.

Here are some examples using the Harvard referencing system:

[when you are referring to a book]
Lewin, K., 1951. Field Theory in Social Science. New York: Harper and Row.

[when you are referring to a chapter in a book, where 'ed.' means editor, and 'edn.' means 'edition']
Piaget, J., 1970. Piaget's theory. In: P. Smith, ed., Handbook of child psychology. 3rd edn. New York: Wiley, 1970, pp. 34-76.

[when you are referring to a journal article]
Holmqvist, M., 2003. A Dynamic Model of Intra- and Interorganizational Learning. Organization Studies, 24(1), 95-123.

[when you are referring to a webpage]

W3C, Web Accessibility Guidelines and Techniques, available online at http://www.w3.org/WAI/guid-tech.html. Last accessed 12/02/2015.

Independent of their type (e.g. book, article, webpage), all references are included at the end of a document in alphabetical order starting from the author's name as in the example above.

8. Useful resources

Here are some resources on plagiarism, study skills, time management and referencing that can help you to better manage your project and avoid plagiarism.

On Plagiarism
- https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/teacher_and_tutor_resources/preventing_plagiarism/index.html
- https://ori.hhs.gov/avoiding-plagiarism-self-plagiarism-and-other-questionable-writing-practices-guide-ethical-writing
- https://moodle.bbk.ac.uk/mod/url/view.php?id=38983
- https://moodle.bbk.ac.uk/mod/url/view.php?id=70384

On Referencing Systems
Harvard guide to citing references:
- http://www.open.ac.uk/libraryservices/documents/Harvard_citation_hlp.pdf
- https://library.aru.ac.uk/referencing/harvard.htm

On Study Skills
- http://www.bbk.ac.uk/student-services/learning-development