

CIS400/401 Progress Report Specification*

Dept. of CIS - Senior Design 2014-2015†

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the progress report is to describe how the research/implementation is proceeding. At times, your progress report may be similar to your proposal (i.e., introduction, related work). However, we also expect significant additions to be made, elaborating on what has been done, and how your anticipated approach has been refined. This should be done with the greatest specificity and technical detail possible.

Everything stated in the proposal specification still applies. In this document, we only focus on how sections should be extended to reflect your progress. Do not be afraid to break from our suggested organization as your project requires.

1. INTRODUCTION

Just as with the proposal, introduce the topic and the associated key concepts. Motivate your ideas, summarize what has/will be done, and outline how the rest of the paper will proceed. Projects operating in complex or unfamiliar domains may be well served by adding a *background* section. Remember that the end goal for this document is to resemble a conference-style paper that an outsider can easily read and understand, so drop all references to “the project”, “CIS 400”, etc.

2. RELATED WORK

Similarly, related work should proceed as previously. Add or remove resources as additional reading has deemed necessary. Realize that work can be related not just in terms of the final use case, but also because of the techniques used. For each citation, make clear how it is related to the project.

3. SYSTEM MODEL

Here you need to answer the *what* and *why* about your system. Impart a high-level intuition about what you are doing and why it will work. Include a block diagram of your system workflow. Cover each component of your system in a technical manner, but do not get caught up in low-level details. Abstract out the *general system behavior*.

4. SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION

Here is where you answer the *how*. How did you implement the system described in Sec. 3? Justify your design

decisions (*e.g.*, performance vs. efficiency). Indeed, your implementation is probably not yet complete, but you should be speculative about the direction your group plans to take. This is the *only* section where things like DB-choice, programming language, *etc.* should be discussed. Avoid telling stories about how you arrived at a certain decision - just note (and briefly motivate) the end result.

5. SYSTEM PERFORMANCE

Here you need to show that the implementation of Sec. 4 succeeds in leveraging the properties discussed in Sec. 3. Being that your implementation is incomplete, robust performance statistics are probably not possible. However, try to demonstrate that you are on the right track. Extrapolate from naïve tests to predict full-fledged performance. Visualize performance (*i.e.*, graphs, tables) whenever possible. Also report on auxiliary measures (*e.g.*, accuracy may your primary goal, but efficiency statistics are also interesting).

6. REMAINING WORK

Some remaining tasks have likely been discussed prior to this point – now *succinctly* aggregate them all here. Also provide an honest assessment of your completion percentage.

APPENDIX

Progress reports should be 6–8 pages in length. There is no fixed requirement on the number of resources – use good judgement. Poor reports will require revision, re-submission, and be penalized. Again, **do not plagiarize**.

*For this report, we do **not** need a signed hard-copy. Electronic submission is sufficient: Submit **only** via Dropbox, please do **not** email copies to the professor or TAs.

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