

DECO1005 Assignment 1

Due date for submission: 14 August 2007

You are required to write a 10-15 (A4 sized) page report on “History and Theory of Computing”. The aim of the report will be to express an original, framework based analysis of the topic. Do the following:

1. **Finding and Understanding Information:** Use the resource list (textbooks etc.) provided on the course web page and the Internet to research a topic of your choice within “Computing history and theory”. Note that although the lecture on computing covered the entire time line from pre-history to modern times, you are not necessarily required to do so. You can either choose to research the history of computing as a whole, or choose to go into a particular topic that you find interesting and carry out research in detail. Use your own interests and the lecture slides as a guide for choosing your topic. For example, if a student is interested in “Artificial Intelligence”, then he/ she should research this particular topic in depth, going into its timeline, hardware-software analysis, technology-society nexus etc.
2. **Analyzing and Presenting Information:** Use the frameworks given in the introductory lecture (timeline, hardware-software analysis, technology-society nexus, etc.) to analyze, organize and present the material that you bring up in the research in your own words. You can also use any other original framework that you think of, for example, “Important people and their impact on computing”. You will be marked on how many frameworks you use, to what depth you carry out your research, and how you present it. You can also choose to combine these frameworks and present an analysis as was presented in the lecture in class.

Focus on both the literary and visual aspects of organizing the material. Please provide references to original sources for both information and images that you use. This report is for 15 marks, the breakup for the assessment and marking is as follows:

1. Number and type of frameworks used for analysis: 5
2. Depth of analysis, originality and quality of content: 5
3. Visual and literary presentation: 5

Note that there will be no difference in the marking, whether you choose to analyze computing as a whole, or choose to go into details for a particular sub-topic. The main focus in marking will be on how much effort you have put into the research, and how effectively you have been able to analyze and present the information from your own perspective. Assignments should be emailed in pdf formats to ssar3264@mail.usyd.edu.au with the following file-name format: *Asg1DECO1005-StudentName*, ex. *Asg1DECO1005-AdamArbib.pdf*.