How to prepare your presentation and demo

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Acknowledgement

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A copy is available at

www.cs.bham.ac.uk/~bxb/mscproject s/2014-15
Why it is important

• Project demonstrations and presentations are one of the most important part of the project assessment.

• Students who do not turn up for their demonstration or presentation will receive a fail mark.

• Your aim is to impress your inspectors to remember your work while reading your dissertation.
Time and venue

• Your inspection will be carried out by a team of **two academics** for **30 min**.

• Where? **basement labs of Computer Science**.

• Identify yourself to the team at your allocated time slot (be there at least 5 min before).

• You can use one of the computers in the lab or bring your own laptop.
Meeting structure

• Before the presentation set up your project and make sure it is working (arrive early!).

**Division of time (Dissertation ONLY):**
20-min presentation (
5-min Q&A

**Division of time (software and Dissertation):**
• 5-min presentation
• 15-min demonstration
• 5-min Q&A and demo probing
Dissertation only

... are clear:

• What is the problem?
• Why is it important?
• How you solve it?
• Evaluation

Let us focus on the projects which involve both software and dissertation
5-min presentation

• What is your project about:
  – The problem and background.
  – Major objectives, motivation, and challenges involved.
  – You methodology.
  – Results/Achievements...

• Aims: sell your work
  – Explain the context of the work.
  – Show your knowledge, understanding, and clever design.
  – Highlight your achievements.
15-min Demo

• Objective: to help the inspectors to comprehend the objectives, the use, and the most interesting features of your system

• Run your demo:
  – To show the most important, striking, and challenging features
  – Relate the features to the objectives
  – A case study: prepare for an interesting scenario of use
15-min Demo

- Tips: Sale-person analogy
  - attract the attention
  - stimulate her/his appetite to learn more
  - get him/her excited

- Be creative but follow your own style
5-min Q&A

• If you don't understand the question, ask for clarification.
• Treat vague questions as invitations to tell the examiners that you know your work.
• If they have a misunderstanding about your work, try to pin it down and explain it.
• If you think the question is irrelevant, explain why you think it is irrelevant.
If you really can't answer a question

• Be honest.
  – If you have any idea at all, say it. "I can't answer this on the spot, but I should be able to work it out in my own time.
  – If it's about limitation of your work, thank the examiner and ask for pointers for future work....."
How to assess

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUALITY OF DEMONSTRATION (Inspection Team)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Topic introduced clearly and at the right level</td>
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<td>Key points conveyed clearly and logically</td>
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<td>Effective use of appropriate demonstrations</td>
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<td>Questions handled well</td>
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Comments on DEMONSTRATION (not covered by questions above)
Using code by others

- It is a good practice to re-use other people’s code
- “But you must make clear which parts of your code are taken from elsewhere and which are original” – Dr Martin Escardo
Final tips

• Plan well. Do NOT modify your software on the presentation day. Why? Very high chance of error!

• Be prepared. Practice, practice, practice and practice again.
Good luck!