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COMP 790 – Operating System Implementation: Spring 2020

Academic Honesty Review

The point of this assignment is to examine issues of academic integrity and academic dishonesty.
You'll write your problem set solutions using the editor of your choice: emacs, notepad, Word, whatever.
This is due in class on Thursday, 1/16.
This problem set was adapted from a problem set designed by Michael Bender.

Academic Honesty

These are bullet points from the course procedures document:

- I take academic honesty *very* seriously. Infractions have serious consequences—generally an F in the course.
- It is *your* responsibility to ensure that you understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.
- Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. It is wrong in this course. It is wrong in your profession, and can end your career, regarless of your skill level, your educational credentials, or how hard you have worked up until this point.
- It is academically dishonest to hand in a solution that you don't understand.
- You may discuss assignments in general terms with anyone you like. However, you should not discuss actual code, in any form, with anyone other than your teammates and course staff. You may not discuss code at a white board.
- You may not help anyone other than your teammates debug code for this course.
- What you submit for grading, including written material and coding, must be entirely your own work, your teammates' work, or part of the code base handed out by the professor at the beginning of the semester. The only exception permitted to this rule is if the professor gives explicit, written permission, in a course handout, Web page, or E-mail, to use or adapt other source code in your work. In this case, the origins of all such code must be clearly cited in your submission.
- You may not share, transmit, or receive source code written for this class from anyone else except your partner, the professor, and the TAs. This includes both electronic forms of transmission such as E-mail or downloading, as well as written or printed source code.
- Except in the case of explicit written permission given by the professor, you may not include in your submissions for this course any source code obtained from a textbook, downloaded from the Internet, extracted from a software package or source code library, or from any other similar source. Even if you make substantial modifications to such code yourself, you may not include it in your submissions.
- Any (permitted) outside input to a homework assignment must be acknowledged. For instance, if you get an idea from a web site, textbook or discussion, with other students, you should cite this in your project submission. Note that citation does not excuse copying of code or other expressly forbidden actions; citations are required for permitted input.
- You are responsible to take suitable precautions to protect your written work. For instance, do not leave printouts lying around, lest you be suspected as an accessory to cheating.
- The appearance of extremely similar code fragments in more than one partnership's submission will be treated as evidence that code has been shared. Note that code fragments can be extremely similar even if they are formatted differently and use different identifiers. Indeed, the appearance of extremely

similar code fragments that differ in this way will be regarded as evidence of an attempt to conceal that sharing has taken place.

- You may not look at code from previous years of this course.
- You may not look at code from similar courses at other universities.
- **Do not show another person (other than the instructor or TA) your work until after the semester end.** Because we have a very liberal lateness policy, you should not assume that another student has completed an assignment after the deadline.
- If you are in doubt about whether or not you are permitted to use particular source materials, you should obtain written permission from the professor, in advance of your submission. Such permission is best requested and obtained by E-mail.

Problem 1

Explain why it is important to your professional development to struggle with a problem that you cannot solve quickly? In other words, the instructor deliberately assigns homework he knows you will likely have to think about for days or possibly weeks to solve, possibly with multiple implementation attempts. What do you expect to learn from this experience?

Problem 2

Imagine that you are employed at a major software company, say Microsoft, and commit code into a product that you copied from a website. Explain the potential risks to both you and the company if this action is discovered by the owners of the code.

Problem 3

Imagine that you are a scientist evaluating the safety of a new drug for use on humans. You are under time pressure to meet a deadline, and have worked hard on experiments, but you don't understand the data. Moreover, you are about to come up for tenure, and whether you publish this result can have a major impact on a career you have spent over 10 years building. Describe how arguing for the drug's safety in your article based on work you do not fully understand could harm others.

Problem 4

Explain why copying (or approximately copying) solutions from the web (or another source) is plagiarism, even if you cite your source.

Problem 5

Explain why it is academically dishonest to share your solution set with another student. Explain how you could be harmed from just sharing your code even if you hand in your own work.

Problem 6

Explain why we let students work together to solve problems, as long as the students cite their collaborators. Explain why it is plagiarism to share and/or copy other code.

Problem 7

Explain why it is better for your grade to hand in a homework late or leave a portion empty, rather than search for answers on the web. (Hint: calculate approximately how much a homework problem is worth to your raw score versus an exam question.) Explain why this is true regardless of whether you are actually caught plagiarizing.

Problem 8

How much time did this writeup take you?