CIS 450 - Homework/Paper 1

Deadline:

Submitted parts due by 11:59 pm on **THURSDAY**, September 8; in-class presentation to be done in class on **THURSDAY**, September 8.

How to submit:

Submit your files for this homework using ~st10/450submit on nrs-labs, with a homework number of 1

Purpose

To think more, read more, and write about UML.

Important notes:

Note that your submissions for this assignment may be posted anonymously to the course Moodle site.

The Problems:

Problem 1 (10 pts)

Consider the posted mandatory readings. In a file hw1-1.txt, put:

- your name

- which of those posted mandatory readings you found to be most useful in starting to learn about UML

- why you made that choice

Problem 2 (15 pts)

Find another article, either on the web or from the ACM Digital Library, about UML that you find to be useful in furthering your UML understanding. In a file hw1-2.txt, put:

- your name

- whether the article is available from the web or from the ACM Digital Library

- if it is from the web, include:

    - the article's URL

    - its title

    - (if available) its author

- – (if available) the date of the article
- if it is from the ACM Digital Library, include:
  - – its title
  - – its author
  - – the name of the journal or conference proceedings in which it originally appeared
  - – the date of that journal or conference proceedings
- explain why this article was useful to you in learning about UML
- NOTE: there's a 5-point bonus if no other classmate also gives the article that you give in answer to this problem.

Problem 3 (10 pts)

At this point, you've read at least a little about a number of the different types of UML diagrams. In a file `hw1-3.txt`, put:

- your name
- which type of UML diagram, at this point, is your "favorite" type of UML diagram? (Note that "favorite" is a pretty broad term -- maybe you might take it to mean which you think would be most useful in a project, or maybe you might take it to mean which is clearest to you, or maybe you might take it to mean which is most intriguing to you at this point. For this question, I'm leaving the possibilities deliberately broad.)
- why is that choice your favorite at this time?

Problem 4 (65 pts)

You were assigned a type of UML diagram in class on September 1st.

- In a file named either `hw1-4ex.pdf` or `hw1-4ex.gif` or `hw1-4ex.png` or `hw1-4ex.jpg`, include an example of your kind of diagram.
  - – It needs to be an original example you create, not one you find somewhere.
  - – It may be created however you are able (up to and including hand-drawn). However, you need to be able to e-mail me an electronic version in `.jpg`, `.gif`, `.png`, or `.pdf`, so you will need to scan it if it is hand-written.
  - – You are expected to display and describe this example in class on September 8th.
- In a file named either `hw1-4disc.txt` or `hw1-4disc.pdf`, write a discussion of at least 300 words discussing your assigned diagram type.
  - – Although this is mostly specific to your assigned diagram type, start your discussion with at least one paragraph describing what UML is, who developed it, and what kinds of things it can be used for, in general.
  - – Then, *describe* your assigned UML diagram type; what is it? What kinds of situations is it used

for? Why is it useful for such situations? What are the advantages of using this kind of UML diagram for such a situation?

– In your opinion, have you ever been involved in a project (in-class or outside of class) where this kind of diagram would have been applicable? If so, describe that project; if not, come up with a specific example of a project (it can be fictitious) where such a diagram could be applicable.

– In your opinion, would this type of diagram be useful in the development of a Knowledge Management System? Why or why not?

– Now that you had read about and created an example of such a diagram, what questions do you still have about such diagrams? In your opinion, are there caveats or disadvantages of using such a diagram?

– You are expected to use at least 3 references in preparing your discussion (although these can include those given as mandatory or optional reading, if you indeed used them as reference in writing your discussion). After your discussion, include a References section that lists these, following the following guidelines:

  – If it is a reference from a journal or conference, include at least the title, the author(s), the name of the journal/conference, and date.

  – If the reference is a web site, include at least the specific URL and the title of that page; include author(s) and date if you can tell what they are, but I know that isn't always evident from a web site.

  – If the reference is a book, include at least the title, author, publisher, and date of publication.

  – Also: BE SURE to reference all of your sources! Use quotations if you are quoting -- still indicate the source if you are paraphrasing.

– Use complete sentences; use spell-checking to remove typos and misspellings; use reasonable grammar. Proofread your paper before you submit it.

– Have you met all of the requirements above, and haven't reached more than 2 pages yet? Here are a few suggestions:

  – flesh out some of your descriptions for the requirements above... 8-)

  – (optional, if desired or you need to write more): describe some examples of your diagram in action

  – (optional, if desired or you need to write more): discuss if some of your sources contradicted each other or conflicted in some way in the discussion of your diagram type

  – (optional, if desired or you need to write more): discuss sources (if any) which actively argue against or criticize your diagram type, and why they do so

  – (optional, if desired or you need to write more): what software would you prefer to use to create such diagrams?

– Finally, be prepared to give a brief oral description of your diagram type in class on September 8th, as part of your display and description of your original example of that diagram type. Powerpoint slides of this description are not required -- you only need to display your example.