Network Topic Paper

Due date: _____   **Topic Approval Due:** _____

Choose a topic from the area of networking and prepare an expository type research paper on the topic. This type of paper is meant to explain some topic or subject to the reader. It is important that you develop a strong understanding of the topic selected so you can easily explain it to the reader. It is important that you read and study several sources to get a balanced understanding (what one source states may or may not be fact; it may be opinion or conjecture).

The topic must be approved by the professor by sending an E-mail to frye@kutztown.edu BEFORE the topic approval due date. See the handout on the web site "Possible Paper Topics" for ideas. The paper is to give a brief but detailed overview of the topic chosen.

Make sure this assignment is a paper that is written in your own words. Do not plagiarize! This will result in an automatic zero for the assignment. The papers will be submitted to turnitin.com to verify that it was not plagiarized.

You must turn in an electronic copy of the paper by submitting it to BlackBoard BEFORE class on the due date. Any paper received after this time is late and will be penalized 10% for each calendar day it is late. No hard/paper copy should be turned in.

Guidelines

The paper must be double-spaced typed, 3-4 page report, not including diagrams or the reference page. You must have a minimum of 3 pages of text. Diagrams are excellent references for the reader but be sure to explain it in the paper context. This paper should be a technical paper and should be written in third person format; do not write in first person, such as I, we, me, you.

The paper must be written using Microsoft Word. It must be double-spaced, with one-inch margins on all sides. The font should be 12 pt. Times New Roman. Include a heading, located in the top left corner of the first page that contains the following information: your name, course name and section, semester or date submitted, professor's name. The heading should be three lines (put the course and date on the same line). The title of the paper should follow the heading and should be centered. In the footer, include the pager number, centered.

A research paper typically begins with a paragraph or two for an introduction to your topic and ends with a conclusion. The introduction should tell the reader what the reader may expect to learn in the paper, why that topic is important, etc. The conclusion should remind the reader of the topic, summarize the topic, and bring the topic to a close. The remainder of the paper is the topic information so the reader can become knowledgeable about the chosen topic.

<u>Bibliography</u>

You are to use a minimum of <u>three</u> resources for this assignment. The resources can be books, magazine articles, on-line articles, etc. You may use Wikipedia and similar web sites to gain a basic introduction to your topic but do not use these sites for paper content and they may NOT be used as resources! KU has a subscription to ACM Digital Library where you can find many articles (you must be on campus to access this site). Cite <u>all</u> of your resources as your concluding reference page (this is in addition to your 3 minimum pages of research.)

The bibliography must include any resource you use that was relevant to the research you conducted. This should include any resource cited in the text of the paper as well as ones not cited but used for research purposes. Again, Wikipedia or similar web sites can be used to gain a basic introduction to your topic but should not be used for extensive research or included in your bibliography. You must follow proper APA style for references and citations. There are several links to the APA Guidelines on the course web site.

If you use a direct quote or another person's idea, be sure to give them credit. A direct quote should be in quotes in your paper. You should use in-text citations for all direct quotes. You should use Numerical Citation [1], which means the sources are listed on the reference page numerically in order of appearance in the paper.

Numerical Citation Example:
[1] Lisa M. Frye. *Creating a Home Network*. Kutztown. Kutztown Press.

<u>Grading</u>

The supporting detail or topic content of the paper will count ten points of the total. The remaining points will include the paper format (follows the guidelines), bibliography, introduction, conclusion, and organization and mechanics (spelling, grammar, writing style, etc.)