DP Preliminary Report Guidelines
see also: [detailed writing guidelines](), including cover memo description

The preliminary report is the first deliverable of the design project. It serves as an opportunity for you to get technical feedback on your design, so that you can make improvements for your presentation and final report.

Your preliminary report should contain enough information to convince us that your design is reasonable, but it does not need to describe every single detail of the system. That means:
- Your report should clearly lay out the problem and explain the challenges your system needs to overcome.
- You should characterize your system at a high level and describe how it will meet the requirements. Doing so may require you to explain some of the implementation details.
- You should state any assumptions that you made in your design.
- You should address the use cases given in the design project description, since those use cases should inform how you design your system.
- You do *not* need to evaluate your design; an evaluation section will be part of your final report, but not the preliminary report.

Your report should be written for a broad range of systems experts from different fields, and should build on our framework of key concepts such as modularity, simplicity, scalability, etc., using specific technical language as appropriate. We will post more detailed writing guidelines in the coming weeks.

The preliminary report should be approximately 2000 words. We care more about the content of your report than the exact word-count. However, if you're writing significantly more than 2000 words, you're giving too much detail; if you're writing significantly less, there is not enough detail.