

6.033 Spring 2017

DP Peer Review Assignment

Due 5/12 at 5:00pm

Peer review is a standard component of academic and professional writing, lending credibility to published research and scholarship. Most of the professional writing we do, for publication and in industry, is reviewed by colleagues and other potential audience members. Conference papers are reviewed by peers. More informally, scholars, scientists and engineers review one another's writing, provide the perspective of a reader, and offer new ideas and new solutions.

In 6.033, you will read some portions of another team's design report and offer feedback and insight. Experiencing the same assignment as both a reader and a writer can deepen your understanding of your own work. It also gives you the opportunity to learn about another design. The goal of a peer review is to improve the original system and paper; to give insights about the system and the paper to the authors; and to support the authors' review process. Although you will exchange reviews after the paper deadline, your review should provide a positive contribution to the authors.

Unlike typical peer reviews, your 6.033 peer review is limited in scope. It should take 1-2 hours, and will not require you to read the entire report. Instead, you'll read the introduction and system overview, and a few other portions of the paper as necessary to answer the following questions. Once you have read those portions, summarize your observations and suggestions (~500 words) to the authors of the paper.

We will assign you another team's DPR to read, and their DPR will be available to you within twelve hours of the DPR deadline. All teams will be able to submit anonymized copies of their DPR for peer review. The review that you receive will also be anonymized.

We recognize that you cannot complete this peer-review assignment until you have the other team's DPR. We're releasing it ahead of time so that you know what to expect. Moreover, understanding what we expect from a peer review should inform your own team's writing.

Questions

1. Based on the system overview and introduction, what are the design priorities of this system?
2. Summarize how data is transferred from the bus to the warehouse (skim the paper to find this answer).
 - What decisions or design choices were made? Was this easy to find out?
 - Does the text identify any major tradeoffs?
 - Can you tell how those decisions and the overall data transfer design support design priorities (identified above)?
3. Considering the system overview and the sections of the paper you read to answer Question 2, are justifications clear and easy to find?
4. Does the evaluation link to the design principles? How?

Structure of the peer review

Introduction: present the purpose of the paper, name the design principle you identified, and summarize key observations or suggestions.

Body: Respond to questions above; note problem and concerns but also successes; offer solutions to problems you identify; use specific evidence from the text to support your assessment.