Division of Information and Communication Sciences
Department of Computing

COMP114 Introduction to Information Systems
2002 - Semester 2

http://teaching.ics.mq.edu.au/units/comp114/

Lecturing Staff:

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**Unit administration:**

Kirsty Howton  
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consultation: Weeks 1-5 times (E6A314 Enquiry Counter)  
Tuesdays 10-12 and 2-6  
Thursdays 10-12 and 2-4  
Weeks 6-13 times (E6A314 Enquiry Counter)  
Tuesdays 10-12 and 2-4  
Thursdays 10-12 and 2-4

**Oracle DB administration:**

Ian Cowell  
room: E6A 366  
email: icowell@ics.mq.edu.au  
phone: 9850-9512

**Time and place:**

**Lectures:**  
Monday 15.05 – 15.55  W5B MACTH  
Tuesday 15.05 – 15.55  W5B MACTH  
Wednesday 15.05 – 15.55  W5B MACTH

**Practicals:**  
Monday 10.05 – 10.55  E6A 110  
Monday 11.05 – 11.55  E6A 110  
Monday 11.05 – 11.55  E6A 112  
Monday 14.05 – 14.55  E6A 110  
Monday 14.05 – 14.55  E6A 112  
Tuesday 10.05 – 10.55  E6A 110  
Tuesday 11.05 – 11.55  E6A 110  
Tuesday 11.05 – 11.55  E6A 112  
Tuesday 12.05 – 12.55  E6A 110  
Tuesday 12.05 – 12.55  E6A 112  
Friday 14.05 – 14.55  E6A 110

**Tutorials:**  
Tuesday 14.05 – 14.55  E7B 164  
Wednesday 10.05 – 10.55  W6B 315  
Wednesday 10.05 – 10.55  E6A 133  
Wednesday 12.05 – 12.55  E6A 131  
Thursday 11.05 – 11.55  E5A 309  
Thursday 12.05 – 12.55  E7B 164  
Thursday 14.05 – 14.55  E7B 164  
Thursday 14.05 – 14.55  E8A 188  
Thursday 15.05 – 15.55  E8A 188  
Thursday 15.05 – 15.55  E8A 386  
Thursday 16.05 – 16.55  E7B 164  
Thursday 16.05 – 16.55  E8A 386
Reading list:

Textbooks:


References for the IS component:


References for the DB component (useful also for COMP224):


Unit objectives:

COMP114 provides a comprehensive introduction to information systems and their application. It explains how information is used in organisations and how IT techniques and concepts may be applied to improving business effectiveness. At business and managerial levels, the unit discusses the role of information systems in an Internet-age enterprise. It explains how to use and manage information technologies to revitalise business processes, conduct electronic commerce, improve business decision making, and gain competitive advantage. From a system's perspective, the unit concentrates upon building a firm foundation in information representation, organisation and storage with particular emphasis upon the application and programming of SQL database systems.

Unit organization:

The unit consists of two parallel streams – a stream addressing the **Information System (IS)** topics and a stream focusing on **Database (DB)** issues. “Benson” is the textbook for the IS stream. “Shah” is the textbook for the DB stream. The tutorials are dedicated to the IS stream. The practicals are devoted to the DB stream.

About lectures, tutorials and practicals

There are three lecturers in the unit. A lecturer teaching in a week is responsible for setting up tutorials and practicals in the following week. Lecture slides and tutorial/practical tasks are published on the COMP114 website by midnight on a Thursday previous to the lecture/tutorial/practical week. The students are strongly advised to page through the slides and read relevant textbook chapters before coming to lectures.

There are twelve tutorial and twelve practical weeks (i.e. no tutorials/practicals in Week 1). Tutorial/practical tasks are published on the COMP114 website by midnight on a Thursday previous to the tutorial/practical week. Students must bring a printed copy of their answers/solutions to a tutorial class. Students should bring a printed copy of the practical tasks for the week to a practical class.
Assignments

There are three assignments in the Unit. The conveners of the assignments are the lecturers teaching in the weeks before the assignments are released. This means (ref. Weekly Schedule at the end of this document) that Asg. 1 is coordinated by Leszek, Asg.2 by Peter, and Asg.3 by Lee.

Administration, consultation hours, appointments

*Kirsty Howton* will largely manage the unit administration. Kirsty will be maintaining students’ marks during the semester, including tutorial marks. Kirsty should be the first point of contact with any issues relating to marks, illnesses, misfortunes, etc. Kirsty’s consultation hours are listed on the first page of this document.

The main means of communication with the unit’s staff, outside of teaching times, is *email*. Students who request to consult with a staff member should seek an appointment by email (unless a staff member has set up weekly consultation hours).

**Oracle DB software administration**

*Ian Cowell* will provide assistance with the Oracle software. This will include any issues regarding Oracle software installed in the laboratories. He will also maintain a “Question and Answer” web page about Oracle, but he will *not* be providing individual assistance to students (this includes the use of the Personal Edition Oracle CD that the students get with the Shah textbook). Questions of such nature should be directed to practical demonstrators in the labs.

**Assessment:**

**Twelve tutorials (worth 12 marks total; 1 mark each; negative marks possible)**

A template WordPad Text-Only document to be used for tutorial answers/solutions will also be provided on the COMP114 website.

Students have to electronically submit tutorial answers/solutions by Tuesday 1:00 PM in a tutorial week. Late submissions will not be accepted. The submissions must be in a Text-Only format (ie. no Microsoft Word or similar formats). The existing wording of the template Text-Only document must not be changed – you are only allowed to extend the document by including your answers/solutions.

Tutorial submissions will not be formally marked but they will be automatically scanned to verify if all questions are answered. No submission or an unacceptable submission will result in a negative mark –1. A marginally acceptable submission will result in 0 mark. Any discovered plagiarism or dishonesty (e.g. by answering question thoughtlessly) will be dealt with very harshly, including granting negative mark -5 to all students involved.

**Three Assignments (worth 24 marks total; 6, 9 and 9 marks, respectively)**

Assignments need to be submitted in the *COMP114 Assignment Boxes* in building E6A ground floor. They should be well presented and include the *COMP114 Assignment Cover Sheet*. Late assignments will be discounted by 1 mark per day after the deadline.

**Final examination (64 marks)**

Students must perform satisfactorily in the final examination as well as in the combined assignments/tutorials total in order to pass.

**Code of Behaviour**

The Code of Behaviour sets out our expectations concerning the use of the computing facilities. The University Council has approved a set of rules governing access to and the use of the University's computing facilities. Students who break them may be suspended from using the systems and, in serious cases, may be referred to the Discipline Committee of the University.

The rules set out the rights and, conversely, the responsibilities of all users of the facilities. In particular, they are based on the principle that the files in an account are the owner’s personal property and should be treated as such. Unauthorised use of someone else's account is a serious offence, whether it be copying their files (stealing), or
changing them (damage), or merely gaining access to them (trespass). You will be expected to observe these rules and also any other regulations posted in the Department's laboratories.

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is where you use the work of another person and present it as your own. This is NOT PERMITTED. If you are caught encouraging, assisting or committing plagiarism, you (and all involved in the episode) will receive zero (or negative) marks for the work, possibly suspension from the unit or University.

The Department keeps a record of all plagiarism incidents.

The University's plagiarism rules are at: [http://www.student.mq.edu.au/plagiarism/](http://www.student.mq.edu.au/plagiarism/)

It is in your interests to familiarise yourself with these rules.

**Email Correspondence**

All email messages sent to members of staff must include the sender's full name and student ID (where appropriate). If this information is not provided, the following is the only reply that will be sent:

An email message has been received at this address. As the message did not include the sender's full name and student ID, no reply, other than this acknowledgement will be sent. If you wish to pursue the original matter, you will need to resend your message including your full name and student ID (if appropriate).

**Using the computing facilities**

The computing facilities in E6A (E6A110, E6A112, E6A114, E6A119, E6A121 AND E6A123) are for work related to computing units only (that is, units commencing with COMP, MPCE or TECH, and for the unit SLP803).

Students found using the facilities for other units will be logged off without warning and have their account disabled for three days.

Using the facilities for other units includes printing material for those units.

To allow fair access to the available equipment, students are not permitted to 'hold' machines for other students. All involved in such instances will have their account disabled for a week.

Further information on the Conditions of Use of these facilities is available at:


**Special Consideration**

Ref. [http://www.comp.mq.edu.au/intranet/policies/SpecialConsiderationEntry.pdf](http://www.comp.mq.edu.au/intranet/policies/SpecialConsiderationEntry.pdf) or read below:

If you have experienced circumstances that you believe have adversely affected your performance in the unit, then you may apply for Special Consideration, as described in the Handbook of Undergraduate Studies 2002 (page 118). You may apply for Special Consideration for assignments as well as for the final examination.

**Special Consideration for the Final Examination**

To be eligible for Special Consideration for the final examination you must have:

1. satisfactorily completed all compulsory requirements of the unit (in particular, all assignments)
2. attached a completed Professional Authority Form to your request
3. provided valid documentary evidence to substantiate your circumstances
4. submitted your request in accordance with the University's regulations (ref. [http://www.reg.mq.edu.au/Forms/APSCons.pdf](http://www.reg.mq.edu.au/Forms/APSCons.pdf))

If you do not satisfy ALL of these criteria, you cannot expect your request to be considered.

Where, in the view of the Division, you are to be granted Special Consideration for the final examination, you should note the following:

1. you will be required to sit a Special Examination
2. your performance in the final examination, if you sat it, will not be considered
3. your final grade will be based on your assignment marks and your performance in the Special Examination

Failure to sit for the Special Examination will result in a grade of FA being recorded.
Process

When you request Special Consideration, you are telling us that your performance has not reflected your true ability. In advising us of these circumstances, you must ensure that you are readily available to be contacted AND you must hold yourself available to sit for the Special Examination at short notice on the date and time we set. It is proposed that semester 2 special examinations will be held in the week beginning 9 December.

Notification of Decision

The outcome of all special consideration requests will be posted on the Department's web-site http://www.comp.mq.edu.au/undergrad/ and on the noticeboard in E6A level 1. It is each student's responsibility to check this site for details. It is anticipated that special consideration results will be available by 6 December.

Purpose

The purpose of the special examination is to resolve the temporary difficulty caused by your illness or misadventure, and is not to give you an advantage over other students by allowing you extra time to study. We will, therefore, hold the special examination as soon as possible after the final examination, and in determining your grade, we will take into account the possibility of extra study time available to you.

Further Information

The University regulations regarding Assessment are detailed on pages 115-118 of the Handbook of Undergraduate Studies 2002, or at:


More specific information and the required Special Consideration forms are available at:


We expect you to read, understand and comply with these regulations.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Lecturer</th>
<th>Lectures</th>
<th>Lectures’ Reading</th>
<th>Tutorials (IS)</th>
<th>Practicals (DB)</th>
<th>Asg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | Leszek   | IS – Setting the Scene  
DB – Introduction to Database Management | IS – B: Ch.1  
DB – S: Ch.1, p.1-8 | No Tutorials | No Practicals |     |
|      |          |          |                   |                |                 |     |
| 2    | Leszek   | IS – Business Information Systems  
DB – Data Types and Constraints | IS – B: Ch.4  
DB – S: Ch.4, p.55-63; Ch.5, p.86-87 | From end-of-chapter (B: Ch.1) | Getting started with Oracle (S: Ch.3, p.40-44) |     |
|      |          |          |                   |                |                 |     |
| 3    | Leszek   | IS – Hardware Fundamentals and Trends  
DB – Data Modeling; Summary of previous week pracs | IS – B: Ch.2  
DB – S: Ch.2, p.20-26 | From end-of-chapter (B: Ch.2; S: Ch.1) | Create, Insert and Basic SQL Queries (S: Ch.3, p.44-51; Ch.4, p.63-67; Ch.5, p.87-96) |     |
|      |          |          |                   |                |                 |     |
| 4    | Leszek   | IS – Business Software  
DB – Database Design; Summary of previous week pracs | IS – B: Ch.3  
DB – S: Ch.2, p.26-33 | From end-of-chapter (B: Ch.2; S: Ch.2) | Create, Alter, Drop, Rename, Truncate, Constraints (S: Ch.4, p.67-75) |     |
|      |          |          |                   |                |                 |     |
| 5    | Peter    | IS – Communication & Networks  
DB – Explanations re Asg 1; Summary of previous week pracs | IS – B: Ch.5 | From end-of-chapter (B: Ch.3) | Data Modification: Insert, Update, Delete (S: Ch.5, p.79-86) | Asg 1 out |
|      |          |          |                   |                |                 |     |
| 6    | Peter    | IS – Systems Integration: Information Systems at Work  
DB – Theoretical Relational Languages; Summary of previous week pracs | IS – B: Ch.6  
DB – S: Ch.1, p.8-17 | From end-of-chapter (B: Ch.5) | Single-Table Queries; Basic Build-in Functions (S: Ch.5, p.96-110) |     |
|      |          |          |                   |                |                 |     |
| 7    | Peter    | IS – Introduction to Systems Development  
DB – Explanations re Asg 2; Summary of previous week pracs | IS – B: Ch.7 | From end-of-chapter (B: Ch.6) | Complex Retrieval: Build-in Functions, Grouping, Substitution Variables (S: Ch.5, p.110-123) | Asg 1 in Asg 2 out |
|      |          |          |                   |                |                 |     |
| 8    | Lee      | IS – Strategic IS Management  
DB – Database Architecture and Tools; Summary of previous week pracs; Solution to Asg 1 | IS – B: Ch.8  
DB – S: Ch.3, p.35-40 | From end-of-chapter (B: Ch.7) | Multiple-Tables: Joins, Set Operations (S: Ch.6, p.127-140) |     |

**Break**  
Sep 21 - Oct 7
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>IS Topic</th>
<th>DB Topic</th>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Pracs</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 Oct 8</td>
<td>IS – Managing the Information Systems Function</td>
<td>DB – Joins and Subqueries; Summary of previous week pracs</td>
<td>IS – B: Ch.9 DB – S: Ch.6 and reference books</td>
<td>From end-of-chapter (B: Ch.8)</td>
<td>Multiple-Tables: Sub-queries (S: Ch.6, p.140-148)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Oct 14</td>
<td>IS – E_Business DB – Explanations re Asg 3; Summary of previous week pracs; Solution to Asg 2</td>
<td>IS – B: Ch.10</td>
<td>From end-of-chapter (B: Ch.9)</td>
<td>Views (S: Ch.7, p.151-155)</td>
<td>Asg 3 out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Oct 21</td>
<td>IS – Web Commerce Development DB – Indexes; Summary of previous week pracs</td>
<td>IS – B: Ch.11 DB – reference books</td>
<td>From end-of-chapter (B: Ch.10)</td>
<td>Sequences, Synonyms, Indexes (S: Ch.7, p.155-160)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Oct 28</td>
<td>IS – Personal productivity with Information Systems DB – Transactions; Summary of previous week pracs</td>
<td>IS – B: Ch.12 DB – reference books</td>
<td>From end-of-chapter (B: Ch.11)</td>
<td>Transactions, Controlling Access (S: Ch.7, p.160-167)</td>
<td>Asg 3 in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Nov 4</td>
<td>Review, including analysis of assignment solutions; Summary of previous week pracs; Solution to Asg.3</td>
<td></td>
<td>From end-of-chapter (B: Ch.12)</td>
<td>No Practicals</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>