About the course

Didactic Laboratory of Information Engineering

Riccardo Bernardini, University of Udine
riccardo.bernardini@uniud.it
Tel: +39-0432-558271, Skype: bernardini.riccardo
https://it.linkedin.com/in/riccardobernardini

February 9, 2016

Contents

1 What is the objective of this course? 1
2 Project report: what to do 1
  2.1 What to include 2
  2.2 Making the site “portable” 3

1 What is the objective of this course?

In this course the students develop projects assigned to them by the teacher. The objective is to make the students “grow” as independent engineers that are able to think autonomously about a problem and propose solutions for it. After the conclusion of the project, the students write the final report as a web site that is put on-line by the teacher. The “reports” of old projects can be found at

http://www.diegm.uniud.it/bernardini/Laboratorio_Didattico/

2 Project report: what to do

As said above, the conclusion of the project, the students write the final report as a web site that is put on-line by the teacher. More precisely, the students will turn in the web site as a folder (in an archive, a USB disk, ...) with the whole site. The teacher will copy said folder to the web server of the department.
2.1 What to include

The “site-report” should include, as any report, a description of the activities, the difficulties encountered, the technical choices that were made and why, a description of the results and, maybe, possible future development directions. A “contact” page can be useful. The site can be only in Italian and/or English, but it is strongly suggested that the English version is present (i.e., only English or English + Italian).

Since the site-report should allow – in theory – someone else to replicate the work, it is strongly suggested that sources, schematics, . . . are included in the site.

Starting from AA 2015-2016 the students are required to include in the “root” (i.e., the top-level folder) of the site-report two files: MANIFEST.TXT (mandatory) and ABSTRACT.TXT (optional). The two files will be just basic text files (created with editor like Notepad, gedit, jedit, emacs, . . . not Word or similar . . . ) with the following format

MANIFEST.TXT This file is a sequence of lines with the format

```
key: value
```

Empty lines and lines whose first non-space character is # are ignored. The accepted keys are

- title A title for the project
- author The authors of the project, one line per author. If the author name includes text between parenthesis (e.g., (name@example.com) or (http://linkedin.com/my_profile)) the part in parenthesis is considered “contact info” and interpreted as follows
  - If the text contains a ‘:’, (e.g., (mailto:name@example.com) or (http://linkedin.com/my_profile)) the part in the text is considered an URL and used as-it-is
  - If the text does not contain a ‘:’, but contains a ‘@’ (e.g., (name@example.com)) it is considered an e-mail address
  - If the text does not contain a ‘:’, nor a ‘@’, it is considered normal text and not contact info.
- home The relative path of the “home page” of the site.
- keyword A list of keywords, one line per keyword. At least one keyword must be present.
- sources (optional) A path to a page from where the “sources” of the project (source code, but also schematics, . . . ) can be downloaded.
- thumbnail (optional) A path to an image that can be used as a “thumbnail” for the project

An example of MANIFEST.TXT can be seen in Fig. 1

ABSTRACT.TXT This file is optional, but strongly suggested. It contains a brief abstract of the project in one (or more) language. As for the report-site, at least the English version should be present.
2.2 Making the site “portable”

Please note

- No special constraint are placed on the structure of the web site, nor how the web site is produced, as long as the site can be turn in as a folder, as said above.

- The turned in site must not require any change to be accessible from the department web site. If the site produced by the students has some problem (e.g., dead links, images not found, ...) the teacher will not modify the site to correct the problems, but he will give back the site to the students, asking them to correct the problems (in the most serious cases, this can impact the final score).

Some suggestions:
– Do not use absolute paths/URLs to images, . . . , but relative ones.
– Pay attention to the uppercase/lowercase difference. The server where the site will be moved to can be case-sensitive.
– Test your site before handing it in. Move it on a computer different from the one used for the development, possibly with a different operative system and check that everything works.
– If possible, install a small web server (e.g., lighttpd http://www.lighttpd.net/) and access your site over the network. This test is suggested because some web-development systems allow to create for free copies that are visible only locally and not on-line.
– Try to make your site self-contained, without relying on external services (e.g., google drive, dropbox, . . . ) to store data/video/images/ . . . This is to avoid that part of the data will get unavailable if the external service is taken down. Of course, you can still link to external sites (e.g., Wikipedia). A possible exception could be the use of YouTube to store videos.