

Final Paper requirements

To complete your project work you will need to write a formal paper. You should consider that your paper will be read by two groups of people: interested individuals without technical background, and individuals with technical backgrounds, but without expertise in your particular problem. You should present your work in such a way that

1. the first group can understand what you've done (while possibly not appreciated all the technical nuances or subtleties)
2. the second group will appreciate the technical challenges that you've encountered, explored, and overcome.

A good way to do this is:

1. Give an early example of what your project is intended to do. This sets the stage so that your listeners/readers will understand your goal.
2. Provide a section describing the nature of the problem, including the technical challenges, and WHY they are challenges (for instance Chuck's problem with the dynamic nature of Ruby and the static nature of Erlang are very good examples).
3. Describe what has been done by others to address this problem, or related problems if you are doing something entirely new.
4. Describe your work, emphasizing your solutions to the above mentioned challenges. If you did not arrive at a solution, describe the work that you did in identifying its nature and why you were unable to complete the solution: in this case your understanding of the nature of the problem is part of your contribution. Include examples of what your system CAN do and what it can't. Connect this to the early example that you described in point 1.
5. Give a retrospective: what worked about your research, what didn't. What you might do differently OR what your next step is for the future.
6. Include a bibliography.

The above paper will form the basis for your presentation.

If you are giving a paper presentation, consider what is most important to convey in the time limit (15 minutes). You should cover each of the above sections, but clearly not at the same level of detail as in the paper. The listener should walk away understanding your goals contribution.

If you are giving a poster presentation, you should have a poster! Your poster should have sections that highlight what you think is most important about your presentation. And you should have a "canned" presentation scenario that will allow you to walk the viewer through your system's capabilities.

Avoid jargon. Speak with an intention to be understood.

Please turn in an abstract (maximum half page) by the end of this week, as well as your official title. Also, let me know if you are doing a paper presentation, a poster presentation, or both. (You have to do at least one.)