

ITR3: Introduction to Information Technology

2002–12–03

See <http://openlib.org/home/krichel/courses/itr3p02a> for the latest online version of this file.

Course Description

This course introduces students to fundamental facts and concepts of information technology. The course aims to cover computer hardware, operating systems, and computer networking. As a practical application, students will be introduced to building their own Linux machine. In addition, the course will provide an introduction to information technologies that are completely hardware independent, such as XML and Unicode.

Course objectives

After taking this course students

- they will be able to understand basic concepts related to computer hardware
- they will have an introduction to computer operating systems
- they will understand basic networking protocols
- they will have an introductory understanding of XML

Prerequisites

There are no other formal prerequisites for this course.

Instructor

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Class structure

Classes will be held in the computer lab in the Palmer School between 17:45 and 20:20. Each class will have some presentation by the instructor. Some classes will be completely focussed on the completion of tasks.

Class details:

0	2002-09-03	introduction to the course	
1	2002-09-10	bits, bytes and characters	
2	2002-09-17	XML I	
3	2002-09-23	XSL and XML Schema	
4	2002-10-01	hardware installation	
5	2002-10-08	cryptography and GNU	
	2002-10-15	<i>no class</i>	
6	2002-10-22	introduction to linux	
7	2002-10-29	installing debian	
	2002-11-05		
8	2002-11-05	more on unix, dns	
10	2002-11-19	mail and network options	
11	2002-11-26	peer-to-peer networks	
12	2002-12-02	computer and network security	
13	2002-12-09	other stuff	(itr3p02a-13.ppt)

Readings

The slides prepared by the instructor are the initial readings. The slides contain pointers to further readings.

Assessment

There will be a quiz at the beginning of each class, except the first class or if it has been announced otherwise. The average of the quizzes will make up 100% of the grade, but the two lowest grades achieved will be discounted.

Students who are not satisfied with the grade may hand in written work. Such written work will discuss the usefulness of a package in the Debian software system. Students may choose these packages as they please but are encouraged to seek the advice of the instructor. If the student hands in written work, the grade of this written work will make 50% of the average. Such work will have to be handed in on the last day of the semester, i.e. 2002-12-16.