

Exam type C:

Submission of Written Work

Applied Information Security, Summer 2022

The official course description states that your exam submission is “your solution to a problem, that we provide to you, after the last lecture”.

The problem has two parts:

- Exam questions
- Paper topic

Exam questions

These are questions that you would expect to see on a written exam. They gauge the extent of which you have achieved the intended learning outcomes.

Paper topic

This is a topic on which you will write a term paper. The topic is chosen by you, but must be green-lit by us, before your exam begins.

The criteria for a topic being green-lit is that the topic must be i) security-related, and ii) not covered (well) in this course. In other words, the term paper must document to us that you have learned something new that is course-relevant.

For instance, you can pick a topic that you enjoyed learning about in this course, delve into much greater detail than the course did, and write a paper on that (i.e. writing a paper that “teaches us” about the topic). Or, you could do a coding project (e.g. perform & document an attack, or implement a mechanism). For further ideas, please see the exam-section on the course website.

Success

The term paper must document to us that you have *learned something new* that is *course-relevant*. Here are some do-s and don’t-s in this regard.

- **Threat model.** Whenever you talk security, be it attacks, countermeasures, or people, it is always helpful to explain, for your scenario, what kinds of *assets* need protecting, what *attacks* you are expecting, and what *harm* those would do. It defines a yardstick, with which we can assess whether an attack is successful, or countermeasure appropriate.

- **Details.** Focus on describing, in *technical detail*, relevant *attacks & countermeasures*. The more (correct & technical) detail you have, the better. This demonstrates to us that you deeply understand what you are writing about.
- **Distractions.** Other things, like history, democracy, activism, economics, etc., while exciting and great for motivation, are *not course relevant*. Don't let such things lead you astray as you are reading & writing.
- **References.** If you quote a source, then indicate that it's a [quote](#), and [cite](#) the source. If you use an observation from, or paraphrase, a source, then cite the source. In both cases, you must show us that you understand what you're using from the source; include (at least) a half-sentence of clarification / elaboration in *your own words*.
- **Quality.** We evaluate the correctness of your term paper, as well as the *quality* of writing. Good writing is rigorous, logical, concrete, short, simple, and to-the-point.

Submission

Please submit the following in the “Submit ordinary exam assignment” in LearnIT:

- answer.pdf - your answer to the exam questions (required)
- paper.pdf - your term paper (required)
- other.zip - everything else; code, etc. (optional)

The term paper has a page limit: at most 7 pages (excluding front page, table of contents, references, and appendix), in a Times-like font, 11pt font size, single line spacing.