Elec 391 Presentations

To give students in the class an opportunity to practice the presentation techniques presented by Tracy Volz earlier in the semester, they will prepare and present short presentations to the class. To this end, students are required to form groups and prepare a PowerPoint presentation to be given during the week of April 2-6

Groups:

Each group must consist of 4 students. You may form your own group and notify the instructors of the group’s members prior to noon on Friday 3/2/01. Otherwise, you will be randomly assigned to a group.

Topics:

All of the topics must concern an electrical or computer engineering failure. Each group must select a specific example of a failure, and design its presentations to address the following questions:

• What was the product/process/system for?
• What was it supposed to do?
• What did it actually do (how did it fail)?
• Why did it fail?
• Where did you get your information?

The answers to these questions clearly overlap, and you should not treat the questions as an outline for structuring your presentations. You decide how best to organize the information for your example.

Your group must submit (via email to elec391@rice.edu) a proposal for your presentation to the instructors no later than noon on Monday 3/5/01. Proposals must be approved by the instructors. Groups must choose different topics, so if you have a particular favorite, get your proposal in early.

If you are looking for ideas, there are sources you can try. The October 1976 issue of IEEE Spectrum magazine was devoted to case histories of failures in electrical engineering and computer engineering. Also, during the late 1980s, and possibly into the early 1990s, IEEE Spectrum ran two series of articles, the first called "Whatever Happened To?" and the second "Faults and Failures."

Presentation Format:

Each presentation will be limited to 10 minutes. This time limit will be strictly enforced. Each member of a group must present some of the material, with the 10 minutes divided about equally between the presenters. All presentations should use PowerPoint slides projected on the screen with the AV equipment in the room.

Practice Presentations:

Each group is required to give a practice presentation to the Cain Project Staff prior to the in-class presentation. The Cain staff has set aside time during the weeks of 3/19-3/23 and 3/26-3/30 for this purpose and each group must sign up in advance for a practice time. There will be no Wednesday afternoon class on 3/21 and (obviously) no summary required that week. Failure to schedule and take place in a practice session will count as a miss grading purposes that week. There is no way to make this miss up.

Presentation Schedule:

All class presentations will be during the week of 4/2/01. They will be held on several
evenings that week. You only need to attend the evening you will be presenting, but are welcome at the others. No Wednesday afternoon class will be held that week, and no summaries are required.

**Presentation Evaluations:**

Presentations will be evaluated by members of the Cain Project staff and students in the class. During the presentations, you will fill out a short evaluation form for each group presentation (except for the group to which you belong). These evaluations will be collected in class and used to provide feedback to the groups. There will be no summaries required for these class days. Each group must provide an electronic copy of its PowerPoint presentation to the instructors.