Reading Assignments
What’s that all about?

• Some weeks you’ll be asked to read and write about
  • Applications, implementations, technical architectures, approaches, interaction techniques, etc.

• Deliverables
  • Due in class the week after a reading is assigned
    • One page summary
      • 10 point font, 1.5 line spacing, times new roman font family
      • Name, and GTID please!

• You’ll receive them back, with a numeric score
  • 3 points excellent, 2 points average, 1 point needs improvement
Reading Assignments
What am I going to write about?

- One page deliverable
  - One paragraph summarize the reading (60%)
  - One paragraph, describe and reflect on the technical assumptions inherent in the paper (40%)
  - Please make each section clear (Summary, Assumptions)
- Late turn ins will get 0%
  - Unless there’s a good excuse
    - And I mean good (dogs don’t eat homework, but life does happen)
- See schedule for readings and turn in dates
Reading Assignments

Summaries

- The summary is an exercise in being an analytic reader
  - Analysis of what the article has said, and why that matters
- A “C” grade summary
  - Vague
    - Some spotty coverage of a few of the points in the paper
- A “B” grade summary
  - Tends to follow the paper structure, without much else
    - Covers more of the points
    - But is not analytic
Reading Assignments

Successful Summaries

- An “A” Summary will
  - Begin with a statement about the paper’s overall objectives
    - Do not repeat what the author has said
  - Provides context for the contributions of the paper
  - Identifies the significance of the paper
  - Covers the majority of the major points in the paper in succinct specifics
Reading Assignments

Technical assumptions

• Unpacking the positioning of the paper
  • An exercise in seeing through the (sometimes implicit) assumptions that the authors make

• A “C” Grade paragraph
  • Vague, without any real depth

• A “B” Grade paragraph
  • Only focuses on surface-level features
    • E.g., it’s written in C++ and runs on Windows. But why is this important?
    • Repeating points the paper rather than reflecting on them
An “A” Grade paragraph

- Gets at the architecture/assumptions of the system and why it matters
  - Does the system’s architecture make it more/less suitable for certain environments or situations?
  - Are there “flaws” (or unconsidered assumptions) that constitute a weakness of the system?
- Integrates discussion from class and paper (and other papers) together
  - Sometimes resulting in a question or finding conflicting viewpoints