

CNDS Survey

Semester 1, 2002

Results of the CNDS module - Semester 1, 2003



Lecturer: Dr W.Buchanan

BACKGROUND

The CNDS module run over Semester 1 of 2003. In total it had over 420 students taking the module, and provided a background in networking (Ethernet/ATM), security, TCP/IP, and mobile computing. The

following gives a summary of the results. The aim of the module is:

- To develop a structured approach to analysing networks in an abstract way.
- To develop an in-depth understanding on how data is transferred from one application to another.
- To outline the component parts of network programs, and how they can be used to design network-based programs.
- To illustrate the methods used in security.

There were three assessments in the module, each of

“85% of students reckon that the help they received on the module was better than on other modules.”

which assessed a single learning outcome. The average mark for the module was 58%, and the standard deviation was 14.5.

SURVEY

The following survey was conducted after the marks from the complete module had been submitted and

every student had had an opportunity to review their performance.

Overall assessment of module?

Excellent	31%
Very Good	45%
Good	21%
Fair	3%
Poor	0%

A good result, especially as there are so many students from different modes of study, and with different aspirations of the module.

How do you rate the quality of the teaching pack?

Excellent	34%
Very Good	46%
Good	17%
Fair	2%
Poor	2%

Very Good	40%
Good	25%
Fair	7%
Poor	0%

The font on the Teaching Pack is maybe a little small, but it is also available from the WWW site in 12 point, so it is possible to print a full sized version.

How would you rate the organisation of the module?

Excellent	29%
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With over 420 students on the module it is not an easy task to organise the module, and the only way that it can be done efficiently is with the usage of IT, especially with e-mail lists. A new innovation this year was the usage of the cn dsatnapier@hotmail.com address in which students could contact a lecturer directly via MSN Messenger, and ask any questions they wanted.

The CNDS WWW site is available at:

www.dcs.napier.ac.uk/~bill/cnds.html
or
buchananweb.co.uk/cnds.html

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How would you rate the quality of the lectures?

Excellent	43%
Very Good	37%
Good	25%
Fair	7%
Poor	0%

“93% of students reckoned that the lectures were good or better.”

Another good result. The lectures were held in the excellent surroundings of an ex-Church (Morningside

Church), which has a capacity of over 350 students. Unfortunately it was often full, with students sitting in the isles. Morningside Church has one of the best projection units I have ever used, so it was easy to give a good presentation.

How would you rate the knowledge of the teaching team?

Excellent	66%
Very Good	24%
Good	10%
Fair	0%
Poor	0%

A good result.

How would you rate the help you received from the teaching team?

Excellent	28%
Very Good	41%
Good	24%
Fair	7%
Poor	1%

The class size was very large, thus it is impossible to help everyone in the way that is required. We setup e-mail support, WWW page questions, FAQs, MSN

Messenger, and so on, and, in general, this seemed to work.

How relevant was the module to you experience in Computing/Electronics?

Excellent	30%
Very Good	36%
Good	18%
Fair	12%
Poor	4%

Well, it's impossible to make the material relevant to everyone, especially as it is taken by so many different programmes.

How would you rate the interest in the tutorial sessions?

Excellent	17%
Very Good	36%
Good	36%
Fair	8%
Poor	3%

A reasonable result, but more work needs to be applied to making the tutorial sessions more interesting.

How would you rate the information you received on the module?

Excellent	33%
Very Good	38%
Good	24%
Fair	4%
Poor	1%

A good result. The WWW site is the focus for the module and provides much of the information.

The CNDS WWW site is available at:

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How would you rate the usage of email and WWW support?

Excellent	72%
Very Good	18%
Good	9%
Fair	1%
Poor	0%

“99% of students reckon that the usage of email and WWW material was good or better.”

The CNDS WWW site is available at:

www.dcs.napier.ac.uk/~bill/cnds.html
or
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As expected, most students relate well to the usage of e-mail and WWW support.

How would you rate the usage of on-line material?

Excellent	69%
Very Good	21%
Good	10%
Fair	0%
Poor	0%

A good result.



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