

Course report Faculty of Technology and Society

This course report is based on student feedback and submitted course evaluations, exam results and the teacher's idea for further development. The course report is published on the course website and Canvas-site.

Course name	Information Security
Course code	DA222E
Semester	VT22
Number of registered students	74
Course coordinator	Joseph Bugeja

	Course report is published on Canvas-site
	Course report is published on course webpage

Compulsory course evaluation

Number of responses to the compulsory course evaluation	5
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The compulsory course evaluation has been conducted through:

X	Standard template via SSR (Sunet Survey and Report)
	Extended standard template with <i>own questions</i> via SSR
	Own evaluation method by the course coordinator
If own evaluation method was conducted, describe how:	

Additional evaluations that were conducted during the course

	Separate survey
X	Oral evaluation in class
	Oral evaluation in smaller groups
X	Other evaluation method
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TGSYA: Program council VT22 LP3 with Kristina Allder (program director and lecturer) and student representatives (30-March-2022) - Oral evaluation in class (informal) during the course summary lecture (22-March-2022) - Continual (informal) evaluation during each class (typically also following comments received on Zoom after each session, and questions raised in class or via email or direct messages on Canvas). 	

Comments on the course evaluations

DA222E course is a new course. The same course responsible (myself) has been retained, and I have drawn on my previous experiences from earlier courses, especially DA351A and DA262A, to provide the greatest possible experience for students. In terms of the future, the feedback received has been very positive and encouraging. Surprisingly, the number of students offering their input (for the compulsory course evaluation) this year is lower than in past years. However, I was able to discern the overall sentiment of the students who took the course also thanks to the additional evaluations.

It is clear that students enjoy the course, find it intriguing, and also entertaining for some. All of the course content and deliverables were very well received by students. This is satisfying and builds on the previous information security course's results. It is also really supportive to find that students want to learn more aspects of information security, including some wanting to have more assignments.

Examination results

X	Examination results are as expected
	Examination results are not as expected
<p>The majority of the students have shown a keen interest in the subject being taught from the start. They understand the significance of information security, especially in today's society. This was demonstrated by the large number of students who attended all of my online classes (online student retention was extremely high!). Furthermore, students did not wait until the end of the semester to study because they were constantly examined in class and afterwards in project and lab (practical) work.</p> <p>Surprisingly, while the exam difficulty was maintained at the same level as in previous years for my other taught courses, there were fewer failures and more distinctions than in previous years. This was partly due to the fact that we performed a lot of revision in class, and the students this year appeared to be quite smart and attentive! Also, the quantity of direct messages received from students this year reflects this engagement as well.</p>	

Recommendations and priorities for the course development

- Provide a hands-on or a Linux cheat sheet with basic Linux commands. Increase the students' understanding of the *man* command and consequently have them search for and identify the appropriate commands to use themselves.
- Consider alternative assignment(s) for certain labs that are more difficult for some students to install (as I have already done for Lab 2). This is also to cater to the fact that the computer labs (Orkanen) are rather outdated and also slow in terms of performance.
- One of the lectures, which is focused on malicious software and application attacks, can be slightly refactored to have more focus on web attacks. Alternatively, extra resources can be provided to students wanting to explore more deeply the topic of web attacks.
- The exam format needs to be slightly improved, mostly to help the lecturers grade the exams faster. Nonetheless, it may be challenging to maintain the same level of difficulty.
- The workshop on ethics is suggested to be slightly improved next year, and there is a possibility that I will introduce additional/new guests in the course.
- Remind students to submit their course evaluation feedback.