

236827, Winter 2015

Seminar in Computer Systems

Instructor [Dan Tsafir](#) (Taub 611, phone: 2056)

Time & place Wednesday, 16:30-18:30, Taub ?

Table of content

- [News](#)
 - [Registration procedure](#)
 - [Seminar in previous years](#)
 - [Course description](#)
 - [Assignments](#)
 - [Grading](#)
 - [Schedule \(who's presenting/reporting what\)](#)
-

News

- [21/5/2014] Webpage online.
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Registration procedure

- While all students can register, seminar participation is limited to 22 students. Acceptance notification will be emailed to registered students by the end of the first week of the semester.
- Preconditions:
 - For CS students: 234123 (operating systems) and 234267 (digital computer architecture).
 - For EE students: 046209 (structure of operating systems) and 046267 (computer architecture).Exceptions may apply if the student has acquired similar knowledge elsewhere.
- If you register, please send email to dan@cs with the subject line: *236827*
- Your email should specify your details as follows: (1) preferred email address; (2) full name in Hebrew and English; (3) student number; (4) cumulative average grade; (5) cumulative number of points; (6) year of study; (7) target academic degree (and name of your advisor if you're a graduate student); (8) relevant courses you have taken and relevant experience in lab projects or industry; and, (9) if you have taken this seminar

before.

Seminar in previous years

- [Winter 2014](#)
 - [Winter 2013](#)
 - [Winter 2012](#)
 - [Winter 2011](#)
 - [Spring 2010](#)
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Description

- The seminar will expose students to a broad range of exciting topics from the forefront of practical research in computer systems, related to operating systems, computer architecture, system security, parallelism, storage, virtualization, cloud computing, and more.
 - Students will be required to read research papers and to present them in class. Papers selection is such that many of the papers have been awarded "**best paper**" within the leading academic venues in which they were published.
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Assignments

- Presentation:
 - Each student is assigned one paper to present in class. You should prepare a 50 minutes talk, out of which about 10 minutes will be reserved for questions/discussion. (The questions often occur within the talk, rather than after it ends.) Students are expected to fully understand their assigned paper, including the material that is not covered by their slides. The student-to-paper assignments are listed below along with the corresponding presentation dates.
 - Please email me your slides before 9pm, Tuesday, a day before you give your talk. The slides should be in English, preferably in PowerPoint, and the 'notes' of the slides should say, more or less, what you're going to say in class.
 - **Note:** the original presentations (the slides) of most of this seminar's papers can be found on the web, typically through one of the links provided below (or through the authors' homepage; google it). Additionally, oftentimes the slides are accompanied by a video of the original presentation. You are strongly encouraged to use these slides/videos as the *basis* of your presentations! But bear in mind that the duration of the original presentations is usually 20-25 minutes, so you have more time for providing required background, expending on interesting aspects, and, most importantly, make sure people understand. If you

fail to find the original presentation on the web, you may want to send an email to the author(s) and request it. Oftentimes you'll get it.

- Finally, I strongly encourage you to practice giving the talk (on your friends / fellow students) before you actually give the talk in class; this will almost certainly ensure your grade is noticeably higher.
 - Three brief reports:
 - To encourage discussion, students will read three additional papers (different than the one they present) and submit a report for each. Choosing a paper to report is done similarly to choosing a presentation (online poll).
 - The report should typically be **shorter than one page** (never more than a page). The report should summarize what the associated paper contributes to our knowledge. It shouldn't be a synopsis of what the authors did, but rather your understanding of the meaning of what they did, and why it's important. In particular, don't copy the abstract; write your own abstract instead!
 - Part of your task is to figure out what are the core ideas and what are details that can be skimmed or even skipped, because they are only of interest to someone who is doing closely related research. If you have spent many hours reading a paper and are still nowhere near the end then stop! You're doing it wrong.
 - Please email me your report before 11am of the day in which the associated paper is presented. The report should be written in English. It can be a Word file, an ordinary text file (txt), or simply typed into the email.
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Grading

- Talk (at least 85%), reports and participation in class (at most 15%), reduction of 5 points for each (unjustified) absence.
 - Talk will be graded by: knowledge of the material, communication of ideas, and working within your allocated 50 minutes. Main goal: *make people understand!*
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Schedule

TBD