

AJP ICA 2011-12 group work planning

brief

The purpose of this document is to help you plan your work for AJP ICA Part II (middleware).

initial checks

Are all members of your group actively participating?

If not... have all members of the group been contacted?

If not... email them now.

You should continue to (regularly) contact absent members of your group. At least weekly and each time you intend to meet up to work on your ICA.

working as a group

Discuss how you are going to work as a group...

1. how often will you meet?
2. when?
3. how will you communicate outside of meeting times (email, facebook, etc)?
4. how are you going to share workloads?

Agree your first meeting time/place now.

workload & risk

Please look at the following "build stages" (as detailed in the ICA spec) and...

- estimate the volume of work associated with each (points are shown as a rough guide). Your estimates could be in working hours or some other measure you find convenient to work with;
- estimate the level of risk – the extent to which a component must be functioning to allow other work to progress (eg: Java doc is low risk, the meta-agent is high risk);
- discuss how to work on individual parts (as a group, by splitting sub-tasks, etc)

build stages

The following table outlines a recommended order for constructing the required components of the assessment. The points column are to provide a rough guide to the effort/time required.

phase I – development in a single VM		points
1	build a simple meta-agent (based on a blocking queue)	3
2	build a portal (some white/yellow-page device)	3
3	build a “user agent” wrapper for a meta-agent	1
4	set up a test harness to demonstrate “user agents”	2
5	reconfigure chat room server/client to operate with new middleware	1

phase II – distributed development (across multiple VMs)		points
6	build a prototype system to create & communicate via a socket	3
7	rebuild the prototype into well-designed, properly threaded classes	2
8	build a socket agent	1
9	set up a test harness to demonstrate that the middleware can be distributed across two Java VMs which communicate via sockets	1

submission

The following table identifies the elements which should be submitted for this phase of the assessment – the marks shown are intended as a rough guide only.

	hand in	notes	marks
1	a guide to the material submitted	1	5
2	code (parts 1-3)	2	25
3	Javadoc (parts 1-3)		10
4	test harness & results for stage 4	3	10
5	reconfigured chat room client & server for stage 5	2	5
6	code (parts 7 & 8)	2, 4	20
7	test harness & results for stage 9	3	5
8	summary of design & critique	5	20