

## 6.033 Spring 2015: "System critique" #2

This assignment builds on the analysis skills developed in the first critique. After reading "The UNIX Time-Sharing System," use the same "Guide to Analyzing Systems" to write a 1-3 page analysis of the UNIX system. Use your knowledge from lectures (e.g. operating systems). Rather than writing short-essay answers to the questions in the "Guide," you'll write a standalone document modeled in part after a technical feasibility study. Your audience is a community of peers who have not read the paper. One key difference is that in a conventional feasibility study, you would compare multiple systems; here you will instead think about characterizing the system as it would work in various use cases, and assess whether it performs well in the specified use case.

- **Introduction** opens with a 1-2 line summary overview of your analysis.
  - Describes how the system works (see the first section of the "Guide")
  - If appropriate, identifies the priorities or principles of the designers
- **Background** gives a more detailed description of the system as defined in the paper
  - Explains how scaling, failures, and security/trustworthiness are handled by the system
  - Uses evidence from the text (citation, section references) to support each claim; you need not cite lectures
  - Demonstrates your understanding of the system (and the paper)
- **Analysis** examines the system in a variety of use cases,
  - Evaluates claims made by the paper (e.g. of scalability).
  - Addresses key analytical questions as specified in the third section of the "Guide" ("Critique the system")
  - Uses evidence from the text (citation, section references)
- **Conclusion** summarizes the system and its key advantages and disadvantages