

CS2104: Introduction to Problem Solving, Fall 2009

In-Class Activity 2

Writeup Due at 11:00pm on Friday, November 20

35 Points

[Note: You are not expected to need until late Friday night before break to turn this in, but we give you this extra flexibility on the due date in case you want it.]

This activity will involve joining a group of 5 or 6 people. We will spend roughly half an hour on the activity during each class during the week of November 16.

Once you have joined your group, be sure to exchange contact information with the other group members. You might want to help organize your work by determining a scribe, whose task is to collect the information generated during the group discussion. Your scribe should **not** have been scribe during last week's in-class activity. In the end, the group will need to produce a document and submit it to Web-CAT by the due date. Only one member of the group should submit the group writeup to Web-CAT, and the group writeup should clearly indicate the names of all members of the group.

For this activity, you will first perform K.T. Decision Analysis on the problem of buying a **new** car. You have a budget of up to \$30,000. Of course, all other things being equal, cheaper is better. For the purpose of determining "cost" since you won't be able to actually make deals, you will use the advertised price of the car as you can find it on the Internet, not counting tax and tags, etc. In other words, you cannot consider a car whose "cost" under this definition exceeds \$30,000. Your group should reach consensus on a list of **needs** and **wants** for a new car. You will then reach consensus on weightings for the wants. Finally, you will select four models that pass the **needs** criteria, and generate scorings for each of the models.

Your second activity, once you have selected a particular model that scored highest under the K.T. Decision Analysis process, will be to perform a K.T. Potential Problem Analysis on the process of actually going through with the purchase and ownership of that model.

Your writeup for this activity should include the final K.T. Decision Analysis table, along with a discussion of how and why your group came up with the list of wants, needs, and various scorings. Your writeup will then show the K.T. Potential Problem Analysis table, along with a discussion of how your group arrived at the contents of this table.