IS 3843 — Spring, 2010
Final Exam

Answer the questions below; they are equally weighted. Answer clearly and neatly in typewritten (word processed) form. You may have up to 2 pages per question to answer questions 2 and 3. If I cannot read your answer or understand your grammar, or if you provide multiple answers, the answer will be wrong. Be specific and direct in your answer. If you have questions about the intent, meaning or purpose of the question -- ASK.

You may have notes, books or other reference materials that you desire. However, you must do the exam alone. If you do work together on the exam, or if you copy the answer from someone or if you discuss possible answers, this will result in a grade of zero (0) for all parties involved.

Turn in the complete exam in order, stapled in the upper left corner to me by Monday, May 12 at 7:30 pm. If I am not in my office, you may leave it under the door or in my mailbox.

I will be available, especially by email, for questions.

1. Create a table in Oracle that includes a student's name, id number, major, current gpa, number of hours completed and number of "honor points" earned. (Note "honor points" refers to the sum of points associated with the grades in classes completed; each class for which someone gets an A gets 4 points, etc.)

Create a web-based system (using ColdFusion, javascript and html) that will:
   a. Allow a student to enter his or her data into the table
   b. Compute the average GPA for students in his or her major
   c. Display the average GPA for students in his or her major both with and without the new data considered

Remember, I will evaluate your answer: (a) to determine if you know how to use ColdFusion and JavaScript and (b) to determine what you have learned about decision support systems.

For this question, print the url on your exam paper and email me the url.

2. What is the impact of using cubes rather tables in the design of a DSS. Construct an example that one might use in IS 3843 to demonstrate the advantage of cubes.

3. Propose a DSS for a situation in which the desktop metaphor would not be appropriate. What metaphor would be appropriate (include a rough sketch) and explain why it would help the decision maker arrive at better choices.