# COIT20233 Assessment Details

# Assessment item 3—Report

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| **Due date:** | 11:45 pm AEST, Friday, Week 9 | **ASSESSMENT** |
| **Weighting:** | 30% | **3** |
| **Length:** | 2500 – 3500 words |

## Objectives

Please refer to the course profile to see how this assessment item relates to the course learning outcomes.

This assignment is designed to stimulate critical thinking outside of the classroom by requiring students to write a formal academic report. You will need to follow the AREA process described in chapters 2 and 3 of *Your Business Degree* **(**prescribedtextbook for COIT20233) to analyse the assessment task, research relevant information, evaluate the information you find and to write an academic report in which you present your findings or outcomes and make recommendations on future practice. This assessment task will assess your skills in critical thinking, researching information, forming an opinion, academic writing, logical ordering of ideas and your ability to support your arguments with quotes from literature.These objectives will be measured by the ‘closeness of fit’ to meeting the assessment task, assessment requirements and assessment criteria listed below.

**Please note that there is a wealth of material available on the Libguide website for this course that you should use to help you gather and evaluate relevant information for writing your report** (<http://libguides.library.cqu.edu.au/coit20233>).

## Assessment task

### Students are required to write an academic report as per the format outlined in chapter 5 of the textbook. The report must follow [Harvard citation and referencing guidelines](http://www.cqu.edu.au/?a=14032). Please note that the prescribed textbook uses APA referencing guidelines. See also the *Referencing Style* subsection below.

**The report is to be based on the following scenario about security and privacy in cloud computing.**

Recently increased use of mobile devices and the growth of the Internet in current business practices have led to the provision of Cloud Computing which relies on sharing computing resources rather than having local servers or personal devices handle software applications. Cloud Computing can be thought of as many different computers pretending to be one computing environment. It provides the delivery of computer and storage resources as a service to end-users using the Internet.

There is a significant benefit to organisations in the leverage of Cloud Computing services, not least of which is the potential for significant cost savings. But security concerns have led organisations to be wary of moving critical resources to the Cloud. Businesses and individuals are concerned about how security and integrity of their data can be maintained in this new environment. Providers of Cloud Computing argue that they have in place security benefits which they offer to their customers who choose to move their data and information systems to the Cloud.

For more information on Cloud Computing watch this video entitled “Cloud Computing in Plain English”:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=txvGNDnKNWw>

You are the ICT manager of a large organisation (1000 employees) based in Melbourne. Your supervisor has asked you to research Cloud Computing and write a report to be presented at the next executive meeting. You are required to prepare a report that explores:

1. The advantages and disadvantages to an organisation of using Cloud Computing, for example, the potential to reduce costs, the risk of making the organisation’s data more vulnerable to hacking.

2. The security implications for staff and customers of the organisation.

3. The opportunities to grow the business using Cloud Computing.

Your report should include recommendations that provide guidelines for the organisation with respect to implementing Cloud Computing practices.

***Please note that you will need to make some assumptions about your organisation in order to write this report. These assumptions should be incorporated in the introduction to your report when you describe the organisation and outline the problem to be solved***.

**Specifically your report should include the following:**

1. Title page: student name, student number, email address, course code, assignment number, assignment due date, campus lecturer/tutor, and course coordinator (not counted in the word count).
2. Executive summary: should include the purpose of the report, the problem and how it was investigated, your findings and your recommendations (approximately 300 words).
3. Table of Contents: should list the report topics using decimal notation. Needs to include the main headings and subheadings with corresponding page numbers, using a format that makes the hierarchy of topics clear (not counted in the word count).
4. Introduction: provide a brief description of the organisation, a concise overview of the problem you have been asked to research, the objectives to be achieved by writing the report and how you will investigate the problem (approximately 400 words).
5. Body of the report (use appropriate headings in the body of the report.): Define key terms you will use in your report, such as what is meant by ‘Cloud Computing’. Present your ideas on the topic and discuss the information you found in your research that was relevant to the report’s objectives. Provide an analysis of the information that you gathered. Ensure that you explore the three points listed in the scenario above. You also need to discuss the ethical, social and legal aspects surrounding this issue. In your discussion, examine the issues from a global perspective as well as from the local perspective (the fictional organisation that is the centre of this report).

**Please do NOT use ‘Body of the Report’ as a heading.** Create meaningful headings that reflect the content of your report (approximately 1200 words).

1. Conclusion: based on your research and analysis. Explain the significance of your findings and your discussion. State if your report has achieved its objectives (approximately 550 words).
2. Recommendations: (based on your findings) what would your recommendations be to your supervisor in this situation? Provide some guidelines for the organisation with respect to sustainable computing practices. Your recommendations should also provide some guidelines for the employees with respect to using Cloud Computing (approximately 550 words).
3. Reference list (not counted in the word count).
4. Appendices if necessary (not counted in the word count).

### Note: Additional information regarding this assignment may be placed on the course website as required. Check the course website at least once a week for further information relating to the report. Regular access to the course website is a requirement of this course.

## Assessment Requirements

Your response should be structured as a report (chapter 5 of textbook), written in accordance with standard academic writing principles (chapter 4 of textbook). The report must be written **using your own words** with any in text citations clearly marked (see *Referencing Style* subsection below). You may discuss the assessment task with other students and the lecturing staff but you must **WRITE the report YOURSELF in your own words**.

You will need to conduct research to support your arguments using AT LEAST NINE references in addition to your set textbook (that is, a minimum of ten (10) references in your reference list). At least six (6) of these references should be from refereed academic journals and books. All sources should be current i.e. 2009 onwards.

The assignment should demonstrate a logical flow of discussion, be grammatically correct and free from typographical, spelling and grammatical errors. It should be prepared in MS-Word (or equivalent) using 12 point font, 1.5 line spacing and margins of 2.54 cm.

It is highly recommended that you submit your assignment to the Learning Skills Unit (Brisbane, Melbourne, Sydney students) or Communication Learning Centre (Rockhampton and Distance students) **AT LEAST ONE WEEK** before the due date so that it can be checked for spelling and grammatical errors.

### Referencing Style

References must be cited (in text) and a reference list provided in accordance with the [Harvard (author-date) referencing style](http://www.cqu.edu.au/?a=14032).

Helpful information on referencing techniques and styles can also be found on CQU’s referencing webpage:

<http://www.cqu.edu.au/about-us/service-and-facilities/referencing>

***Marks will be deducted for poor referencing or having less than ten (10) references.***

***Use quotation marks for direct quotes and you must include the author, date and page number(s) with the quote as per the Harvard referencing standards.***

**ALL assignments will be checked for plagiarism (material copied from other students and/or material copied from other sources) using Turn-It-In. If you are found to have plagiarised material or if you have used someone else’s words without appropriate referencing, you will be penalised for plagiarism which could result in zero marks for the whole assignment. In some circumstances a more severe penalty may be imposed.**

Useful information about academic integrity (avoiding plagiarism) can be found at:

<http://www.cqu.edu.au/about-us/service-and-facilities/referencing>

### Submission

### To be submitted online through the COIT20233 Moodle course website assessment block on or before the due date.

Before submitting your assignment you should check it against the detailed criteria below to ensure that you have satisfactorily addressed ALL the marking criteria.

## Assessment criteria

### This assessment is criterion referenced which means your work is assessed against the criteria in the marking rubric below.

| **Criteria** | **Quality** | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **High Distinction**  **(2.75-3.0 marks)** | **Distinction**  **(2.25-2.5 marks)** | **Credit**  **(1.75-2 marks)** | **Pass**  **(1.25-1.5 marks)** | **Fail**  **(0-1 marks)** |
| ***References (1):*** Evidence of research and analysis of the references. | Thorough research indicated; clear well-thought out analysis clearly integrated into discussion.  Analysed and evaluated information in great depth.  Used references to support, extend, and inform, but not substitute writer’s own development of ideas.  Combined material from a variety of sources.  Did not overuse quotes. | Research was generally thorough; analysis was generally well done; integrated into discussion.  Analysed and evaluated information in considerable depth.  Used references to support, but not substitute writer’s own development of ideas.  Combined material from a variety of sources.  Did not overuse quotes. | Some evidence of research; basic analysis; some integration into discussion.  Analysed and evaluated information in reasonable depth, some description.  Used references to support, but not substitute writer’s own development of ideas.  Combined material from a few sources.  Did not overuse quotes. | Basic research; weaknesses evident in analysis.  Little evidence of analysis and evaluation of information; recounted and described. Details were too general, not interpreted, irrelevant to topic, or inappropriately repetitive.  Used relevant references but lacked in variety of references and/or the skilful combination of references.  Combined material from a few sources.  Quotations and paraphrases may be too long or not well integrated into the text. | Little or no evidence of research and analysis of information.  Neglected important references.  Simplistic or undeveloped support for the ideas.  Inappropriate or off-topic generalisations, faulty assumptions, errors of fact.  Overused quotations or paraphrasing to substitute writer’s own ideas.  Possibly used source material without acknowledgement. |
| ***References (2):***  In-text citations and reference list. | At least ten current references.  Thorough referencing. Citations and reference list accurate and consistent with Harvard style. | At least ten current references  A few inaccuracies with Harvard style for citations and/or reference list.  All references listed. | At least ten current references  Generally complete. One or two references missing.  Some errors in Harvard style for citations and/or reference list. | At least ten current references  Incomplete reference list. References not cited properly in text.  Errors with Harvard style. | Less than ten references.  Problems with citations.  Inconsistent with Harvard style. |
| ***Executive summary*** | The executive summary contained:  - a brief description of the purpose of the report  - the definition of the problem and how it was investigated  - a summary of what you found and what you concluded  - your recommendations | The executive summary contained the proper sections but did not include enough detail. | The executive summary had sections which were too brief or missing. Did not include enough detail. | The executive summary lacked clarity and has incomplete or missing sections. It did not clearly explain the problem, how it was investigated and your recommendations. | Entire sections of the executive summary are missing. There is a lack of detail and the problem is not well explained. |
| ***Table of contents*** | Lists the report topics using decimal notation. Includes the main headings and subheadings with corresponding page numbers. Format makes the hierarchy of topics clear. | A few things missing from the table of contents. | Some things missing from the table of contents | Includes the main headings only. | Table of contents missing. |
| ***Introduction*** | Set the scene for the report; gave some background information for the topic.  Stated the objectives of the investigation.  Explained the research method used to gather information.  Outlined the sections of the report. | The introduction contained the proper parts but did not include enough detail. | The introduction had parts which were too brief or missing. Did not include enough detail. | The introduction lacked clarity and had incomplete or missing parts. It did not clearly introduce the report. | The introduction was missing or was a repeat of the executive summary. It did not clearly introduce the report. |
| ***Body of report:***  Selection and sequencing of subject material; including evidence. | Selected exact amount of relevant material that supports argument with no contradictions.  Substantial, logical, & concrete development of ideas. Arguments were logical and clear.  Assumptions were made explicit.  Details were germane, original, and convincingly interpreted. | Selected large amount of relevant material.  Offered solid development of ideas but less original reasoning.  Assumptions were not always recognised or made explicit.  Contained some appropriate details or examples. | Selected adequate amount of material.  Some development of ideas; not much original reasoning.  Assumptions are not always recognised or made explicit.  Contains some appropriate details or examples. | Selected adequate amount of material not all of it relevant.  Not much development of ideas. Very little original reasoning.  Offered somewhat obvious support that may be too broad.  Details were too general, not interpreted, irrelevant to problem, or inappropriately repetitive. | Selected too little material or material that is irrelevant.  No development of ideas or original reasoning.  Offered simplistic, undeveloped, or cryptic support for the ideas.  Inappropriate or off-topic generalisations, faulty assumptions, errors of fact. |
| ***Conclusion*** | Problem restated clearly, main points and supporting arguments summarised.  Stated the significance of the findings and that the objectives of the report had been met.  No new material. | The conclusion contained the proper parts but did not include enough detail.  No new material. | The conclusion had parts which were too brief or missing. Did not include enough detail.  May have included some new material. | The conclusion lacked clarity and had incomplete or missing parts. It did not clearly conclude the report.  May have included some new material. | The conclusion is missing or was a repeat of the executive summary. It did not clearly conclude the report.  Included new material. |
| ***Recommendations*** | Suggested actions to address the problem.  Actions were clearly based on the findings of the report. | Most suggested actions were relevant to the problem.  Actions were based on the findings of the report. | Suggested actions were somewhat relevant to the problem.  Not all actions were based on the findings of the report. | Suggested some actions. Not all actions were relevant to the problem.  Not all actions were based on the findings of the report. | Recommendations missing or irrelevant to the problem and/or did not relate to the findings. |
| ***Organisation:*** of ideas/main points; structure of sentences and paragraphs. | Organisation fully supported the problem being addressed and the objectives of report.  Sequence of ideas was effective.  Excellent sentence structure. Well-constructed paragraphs; clear linkages between paragraphs. | Organisation supported the problem being addressed and the objectives of report.  Sequence of ideas could be improved.  Good sentence structure. Linkages between paragraphs were mostly appropriate. | Organisation supported the problem being addressed and the objectives of report.  Sequence of ideas did not always flow in a logical manner.  Some good sentence structure. Linkages between paragraphs could be improved. Some brief, undeveloped paragraphs. | Some signs of logical organisation.  May have had abrupt or illogical shifts and ineffective flow of ideas.  Some awkward sentences; paragraphs not well linked. Paragraph structure not well integrated; contained extraneous information. | Unclear organisation or organisational plan was inappropriate to problem being addressed.  Poorly worded sentences. No linkages between paragraphs.  Showed minimal effort or lack of comprehension of the assignment. |
| ***Presentation:***   * Title page * Grammar, punctuation and spelling. | Title page contained all necessary information.  Written expression was clear and correct; evidence of thorough proof-reading.  Observed professional conventions of written English and report format.  Grammar excellent; correct use of punctuation; minimal or no spelling errors. | Title page contained all necessary information.  A few errors in grammar (wrong verb tense, subject-verb agreement, pronoun agreement, apostrophe errors, singular/plural errors, article use, preposition use, split infinitives, etc.). Made occasional problematic word choices or syntax errors.  Observed professional conventions of written English and report format; made a few minor or technical errors.  Grammar strong despite occasional lapses; a few spelling or punctuation errors. | Title page contained all necessary information.  Some distracting grammatical errors (wrong verb tense, subject-verb agreement, pronoun agreement, apostrophe errors, singular/plural errors, article use, preposition use, split infinitives, etc.). Little evidence of proof-reading.  Needed to observe professional conventions of written English and report format; made numerous errors.  Grammar could be improved; errors in punctuation and spelling. | Some necessary information was missing from the title page.  Some major grammatical or proofreading errors (wrong verb tense, subject-verb agreement, pronoun agreement, apostrophe errors, singular/plural errors, article use, preposition use, split infinitives, sentence fragments, word form errors, etc.).  Needed to observe professional conventions of written English and report format; made repeated errors.  Frequent errors in grammar, punctuation, and spelling. | Title page missing or missing necessary information.  Numerous grammatical errors which seriously detracted from understanding the writing.  Evidence of poor planning and/or no serious revision of writing.  Did not meet professional conventions of written English and report format.  Frequent major errors in grammar, punctuation, and spelling. |
| Length | Correct length (2500-3500 words) | Correct length (2500-3500 words) | Correct length (2500-3500 words) | Correct length (2500-3500 words) | Too long (>3500 words) or too short (<2500 words)  Reports in this range will receive a penalty of 5 marks. |
| Grade: | | | Lecturer/Tutor: | | |
| Mark: | | | Date: | | |