Dear students,

due to the outbreak of COVID-19, we are currently in a very special situation, which will also impact the organization of teaching. In this document, we provide you with information on how the

Mobile Computing lecture and lab

will be organized in the summer term 2020.

First of all, the most important information: both, the Mobile Computing lecture and the lab will take place in summer term 2020, in a fully virtual format (unless the situation changes significantly and we have other options).

Although we need to increase the physical distance to “flatten the curve”, we want to keep in close touch with you using electronic and online media as much as possible. After all, we are computer scientists living with the Internet already for a long time. Working on projects together remotely is something that will become more and more common, and COVID-19 is currently boosting this development.

It is a challenge, in particular for the practical part of this course, where we would like to keep up (virtual) teamwork as much as possible. There will be some problems for sure, but we are confident that we can still make this a great course and experience for all of us.

Lecture

The official lecture time starts on **April 20, 2020**.

We will produce **screencasts (videos)**, presenting the slides including comments of the lecturer. Videos will be uploaded to ILIAS incrementally. First videos will be available at the beginning of the lecture time (April 20, 2020). There will be no live broadcast of the lecture since this might exceed the server and network capacity of the university.

Moreover, we will implement regular **virtual question and answer sessions** (Q&A sessions) during the official lecture hours. All dates will be announced on ILIAS. The first session takes place in the first lecture week on **Monday, April 20, 2020, at 15:45-17:15.**

We would like to be as interactive as possible in these sessions, having voice and (if possible) visual interaction (camera, at least for us; maybe screen sharing). We are still evaluating tools for this. Web conferencing tools might not be scalable enough. However, we might implement a format as possibly best known from YouTube live streams: one speaker including video, questions coming in over chat, we will repeat questions and answer them for everybody.

Lab

There will be (as usual) **4-5 practical assignment** to be done (implemented) by you. We might reduce the number of assignments to 4 due to the shortened lecture period (yet to be decided).

We will **present the assignments as videos**, similar to the lecture screencasts (see above).

For specific topics, we will offer **video tutorials** to explain the technical background. For Android programming, we have already created such video tutorials for the last semesters, which you can find already online in ILIAS. We might produce more, where we think that the lecture and assignment videos are not sufficient.
We will have **virtual Q&A sessions** during the official lab time (as announced on ILIAS), similar to the Q&A sessions of the lecture (see above). Here, we try to clarify your questions about the assignment.

You will work on assignments in **virtual teams of 3-4 students**. Team formation will be done online with a procedure announced later. However, due to the imposed restrictions – you cannot and should not meet in person – you have to arrange **virtual team meetings** for discussing and organizing your work. The tools such as Skype are up to you for these meetings. If you have any problems organizing these meetings, let us know. We will try to help you.

For each assignment, each team turns in over ILIAS:

- **your code** (developed by your team together)
- **one video** (5-10 minutes duration) showing us your results. This video serves two purposes. First, you should demonstrate that your solution works. Secondly, you should explain us your solution by walking us through the code of your solution and explaining the most important sections. This might be best implemented as screencast, in particular, for explaining us your code. To demonstrate that your solution works, you might also take additional videos, e.g., with your smartphone camera or webcam, showing us your working solution. Don’t worry: the quality of your video is not critical, nor will it be rated (your result/solution will be rated, but not the presentation).
- If we have further questions, **we might arrange individual online meetings** (WebEx, Skype, ...) with your team.

**Further Information**

**ILIAS is our primary source of information.** We will continuously update the information on ILIAS and upload material and schedules there. As usual: register for the course in Campus, and you will get access to the ILIAS course automatically:

- **Lecture:** https://ilias3.uni-stuttgart.de/goto_Uni_Stuttgart_crs_1856034.html
- **Lab:** https://ilias3.uni-stuttgart.de/goto_Uni_Stuttgart_crs_1857679.html

We also have a **forum on ILIAS** where you can post messages to everyone, including us (the lecturer and tutors). If you have a general (non-private) questions about the lecture or lab that might be interesting for everyone, **we strongly encourage you to post your questions that cannot be answered during the Q&A sessions in the forum**! Moreover, **you should also watch the information posted in the forum since we might also post important information and updates there**.

If you have a personal question, you can also contact us directly (e-mail addresses see below).

Stay healthy! We are looking forward to seeing you (virtually) in the lecture and lab!

Your lecturer and tutors,

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