SP2 2009 COMP 4027 Forensic Computing Course Feedback

Stats:

In the chart above, the course total marks are given in percentages while all other categories are given in absolute marks.

Exam feedback

Exams were marked vertically, i.e. all questions 1, then all questions 2 and so on. This gives the greatest consistency. Also, there was a strict marking scheme

Question 1
This was the compulsory question worth 20 marks (half of the entire exam).

Most people did very well in this question and I was very pleased with the results.

Question 2
16 of the 20 students chose to do this question.

Part a) not many people pointed out the different between high/low interaction honeypots being the level of services available, i.e. a fully-functioning system as opposed to a few minimal services.

Question 3
9 of the 20 students chose to do this question.

This question was generally well done.

Question 4
15 of the 20 students chose to do this question. It was generally very well done.
Assignments

Assignment 2
A common problem was not enough details given about chosen tools, and no survey of alternatives or reason for preferring chosen tool given. Frequently it was far too short for a section worth 10 marks.

Assignment 3
While everyone discovered that network 3 blocked many potential attacks, most managed to simulate some attacks themselves. The individual reports often focused on the group's activity instead of the individual's own contributions to the group. Peer review was generally high but plausible, and shows that most groups worked together very well.

What will change for next year
Clearly assignment 3 will have to change since network 3 changed their service provision. Next year we will probably be replacing the honeypots assignments 1 and 3 with assignments on using web log mining to extract evidence. Honeypots will still be covered but will be part of lectures instead.