Writing a short paper for the courses TDT10 /DT8100

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Background

• You need to write a short paper that counts 1/3 of the final character.
• Topic should be related to the course:
  – Studies of OSS, COTS, software reuse, licenses, economic models, …
  – Subject: a product, process for developing or maintaining software, experiences, community involvement, studies of tools supporting this development, a method, …
Examples of types of studies

- An experience report from a project or product
  - Facts about the case, what we did, what we learned, what is relevant for other practitioners

- A study of literature that summarizes what is done
  - Clear research question, sources, results, gaps for further research

- Analyzing historical data of a project / product (quantitative study)
  - Goal, summary of the data, statistical methods applied, results and discussion

- On-going research on a subject
  - Goal of the study, research question(s), methods to apply, related work

- Opinion or insight into a problem
  - Novel, comparison with others or contrasts

- Assessing the effect of an intervention, a new method or a new tool
  - Goal, activity, measures or observations, discussion

- Case study on a finished project
  - Facts, collected data or observations, results and discussion
Contents of the paper

• A descriptive title
• Short abstract
  – What is the problem, methods, results, implications
• Introduction that motivates together with the structure of the paper
• Related work
  – places work in context, demonstrates that you know about state of the art
• Your work
  – Organize, tables and figures, discuss methods, data, results and discussion, validity threats, what are the weaknesses or strengths
• Conclusions and future work
  – Short summary and implications. Why your work is important, ideas for future work
How to make it a good paper?

• One topic. Focus.
• Clarity. Understandable for others but don’t repeat what is known.
• Do not over-emphasize or over-interpret.
• Do not repeat yourself.
• Short sentences.
• Remove sentences and filling words such as ”it should be clear”, ”no need to say”, …
• Be objective.
Kom i gang!