Concept linking assignment

The purpose of this assignment is to encourage you to try to make links between concepts that appear in one part of the course and those that appear elsewhere. Linking concepts can strengthen your understanding of those concepts and can promote use of higher order thinking (e.g. analogies) in order to make the links. So you are encouraged to continue linking concepts beyond the set that you are allocated for this assignment.

In this assignment, you will link to concepts covered in the week 2 lecture, which provides a foundation for much of the rest of the course, so the concepts in that lecture are often referenced in the remainder of the course. Each student will be assigned a different set of week 2 concepts to find links to. Since the concepts in week 2 vary in the number and obviousness of their links to the rest of the course, for fairness between students you will be assigned multiple concepts in the expectation that the average will even out variation in the degree of difficulty in finding links. The concepts that you have been allocated will be identified by the identifiers of week 2 lecture slides that describe those concepts, i.e. for each slide identifier allocated to you, you should find links between all concepts on those slides and other slides used elsewhere in the course.

You should submit links that you find to concepts in week 1-5 lectures before the mid-session test in week 6. Other links that you find, e.g. to week 7-12 lectures or additional links to week 1-5 lectures, must be submitted before the end of week 13. Both deadlines are intended to encourage you to form such links to solidify your understanding of material before assessment in the mid-session and final exam. Submissions before each deadline are each worth 5% of course assessment.

Submit links that you discover using the form. Each submission should provide one link. The form asks you to identify the slide that you were allocated and the slide that links to that concept, and to provide a brief (up to 30 words) explanation of what links the concepts on the slides. You will be marked according to the quality of your linking of concepts, i.e. in terms of the fraction of existing links that you report, and in terms of the quality of the justification that you provide for the link. e.g. if n slides are actually justifiably linked to your allocated concept then you could expect to receive a mark of 50% for merely submitting links to those n slides without justification, and 100% for providing accurate justifications. If you only identified and accurately justified links to m<n of the slides then you could expect a mark of m/n*100%. If you identified and accurately justified m of the slides amidst a larger set of p>n submissions, then you could expect a mark of m/p*100%, i.e. don't try a scattergun (p→∞) approach.

For example, if you were allocated slide Z9 about source routing, and you observed that a Banyan switch fabric (slide UX) essentially does source routing, then you should submit an entry like:

- Student ID: z1234567
- Allocated slide: Z9
- Linked slide: UX
- Reason: A Banyan fabric adds a label to each packet that guides it through switching stages in the fabric, similar to source routing.

Note that the link must relate specifically to the allocated slide and not to some more general concept (e.g. routing) or more specific concept (e.g. the security of source routing).

If you submit another entry that links the same pair of slides, then it will supercede the previous entry. If you wish to withdraw an entry, then submit another entry that links the same pair of slides with the word “withdraw” as the reason. Unfortunately the form does not allow you to review the set of entries that you have submitted, so keep your own record.