Current Events Assignment

The purpose of this assignment is to raise your interest level in computing and show you that computer science is applicable to a wide range of fields. As a result of these writing assignments you should be able to talk about trends in technology and the applications of computer science to other fields of study.

You are required to submit a current events article every two weeks. For each of these, you need to turn in a one page write-up including your name, the title of the article, and at least two paragraphs. The first paragraph should summarize the article, and the second paragraph should give your reaction – why you think this is important or interesting. You may also include questions about terminology in the article or even a question you would like to ask the author after reading the article. Staple a copy of the article you are reviewing to your write-up. This means you must have a paper copy of the article.

Below your write-up, include a reference to the article in APA format:

Reference:

The article must have some solid connection to COMPUTER technology (including the Internet), not just science and/or technology in general. The articles must have some depth to them. Half-page articles and press releases are insufficient unless there’s something really exceptional about them.

The articles must be recent – within the previous two weeks.

Assignments are due every other Monday class beginning with Monday, January 25. Turn in the assignment at the beginning of class.

There are many sources of technology news on the web:

- The ACM (Association of Computing Machinery) publishes a news synopsis three times a week that gathers information from a variety of sources and summarizes it. This is a great place to start for finding current events. ACM’s TechNews page can be found at: http://technews.acm.org
- Wired magazine also has interesting articles, just make sure it is related to computer technology: http://www.wired.com/
- American Association for Artificial Intelligence’s AI in the News page: http://aitopics.org/news
- MIT’s Technology Review has a great Computing section: http://www.technologyreview.com/
Make sure you have a substantial article and a substantial write-up. Make sure your write-up is well-written and proofread. Almost all articles found through ACM TechNews are substantial. If you use TechNews to find the article, add the line “Found through technews.acm.org” on a separate line after your reference so that I know. If you can tie the article to something we’ve discussed in class, that’s a plus.