Directions: This homework assignment is meant to get you up to speed on some computer terminology and have you think in some unusual ways about how computer science can be found in the world around you. Your answers to this homework must be TYPED into your favorite word processor and PRINTED nicely. It must contain your NAME in some obvious place as well an indication of our COURSE NAME and NUMBER as well as the DATE you submitted your homework. Try to write your answers using complete sentences whenever possible. If you need to draw diagrams you should draw them using any of the various computer drawing programs we have available in the campus labs (or use your own if you wish) and include them in your document. Try to write complete sentences whenever possible in your answers. This homework is due next Monday in class.

1) Look up a definition of computer science using an online dictionary or encyclopedia such as Wikipedia. If you cannot find one single source that seems adequate, consult two or more. List three facts you learned from your research about computer science that you did not previously know. List the source(s) you consulted for this exercise.

2) Write one full paragraph in your own words giving YOUR version of how a laptop computer works. Again, no copy and paste here, just try to tell your short version of what you know about the way a laptop computer works.

3) Now search around for some online resources that explain how a modern (electronic) computer works. Such an explanation might include various levels of detail about electronics, personal computers, digital logic, levels of organization, hardware vs. software, devices, etc. See what you can find out. List the sources you used.

4) List three facts you learned from your just completed research about how computers work that you did not previously know.

5) Look up a definition and description of operating system in an online resource(s) and read through the entry. Now write in one paragraph using your own words what an operating system does for us as computer users. List the source(s) you used.

6) Here are four links to videos related to issues involving computers in some fundamental way. They range from a few minutes talk at TED by Dean Kamen to an hour long talk by Ray Kurzweil at Google. Watch the videos and when each one is done, write me a paragraph, in your own words, telling me what you learned, if anything, from watching that video. I should get four paragraphs, one per video. Overall, did you find the information useful, surprising, unlikely to be a successful, what?

www.ted.com/talks/luis_von_ahm_massive_scale_online_collaboration.html
www.ted.com/talks/pattie_maes_demos_the_sixth_sense.html