CS 525M Project Guidelines

As previously discussed, your project proposals are due in class on **March 14, 2006.** Between now and that date, you should begin to work on brainstorming to come up with ideas, refining them and researching to find useful tools, methodologies, or extensions to papers that we have read in class. You may also come up with projects that deal with papers or issues that we have not covered in any of the papers we have read.

I would like to help you as much as possible throughout the project process, so feel free to bounce ideas off me. Frequently, I can suggest directions or extensions to some of your thoughts or point out relevant papers that you should be aware of.

On March 14, you will have to submit a proposal preferably in electronic format over email before class on that day. Your proposal should not exceed 8 pages, including all figures, appendices, etc.

Proposal Format

The goal of the project proposal is to convince yourselves and the reader that the work you plan to do is both useful and feasible. Your proposal should typically include the following:

o **An abstract:** that concisely describes the problem that you are solving and how you plan to attack it

o **An introduction:** that motivates your work. Why is this problem important? What do you expect the benefits of your work to be? The intro should highlight the key points of the proposal; this is your chance to grab the reader's attention.

o **A discussion of related work:** that shows how the work you plan to do is novel. Remember that a good related work section should not just list similar projects – it should also compare and compare how your proposed project will differ from those previous efforts

o **An outline of your proposed work:** What is it that you hope to accomplish? Are you doing a measurement study, building a system, or making a theoretical contribution? What are the tools that you plan to build or use? What is the methodology that you will employ?

o **Evidence that your proposed work is possible:** You may include preliminary results that demonstrate the feasibility of your project. Alternatively, you may have logical arguments as to why your project will succeed

o **Milestones:** that lay out the specific work items you plan to address as part of your project and when you hope to accomplish them. The goal here is to convince yourselves and the reader that your project can be accomplished within the semester.

o **A summary:** that iterates the key points of your proposal