



# How to Write a Review

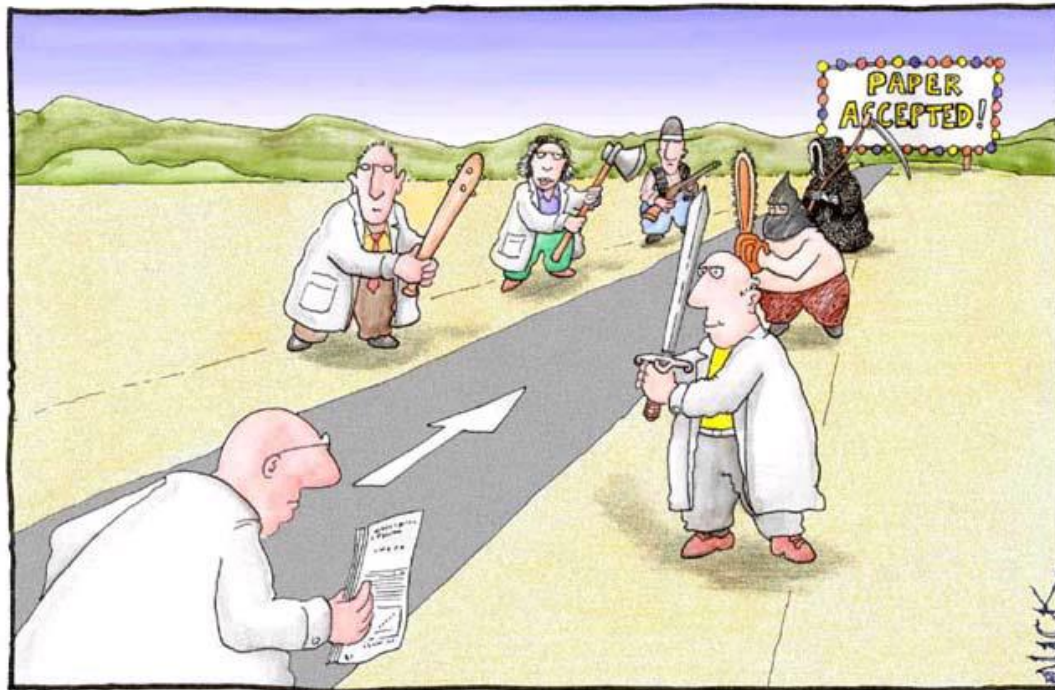
Lehrstuhl für Netzarchitekturen und Netzdienste  
Technische Universität München

*Slides by Daniel Raumer, Lukas Schwaighofer*



# Definition

**Peer review** is a procedure for the evaluation of scientific work. Independent experts working in the same subject (peers) express their professional opinion on the submitted material.





# Overall Goal

- ❑ Each paper completes a peer review process
- ❑ Each paper gets reviewed by 2 students, the advisor provides feedback (3rd review)
  - Reviews should be critical and objective.
  - Reviews are anonymous (so keep this in mind as an reviewer)
    - Note: While we do not disclose the identity of the reviewer, other information such as metadata of the submitted documents may reveal the reviewer's identity
- ❑ Goal: Improve the quality of the (seminar) papers



„He who flatters me is my enemy, who blames me is my teacher.“

(Chinese proverb)



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [www.net.in.tum.de/lehre/ss13/seminare/hauptseminar-innovative-internettechnologien-und-mobilkommunikation/](http://www.net.in.tum.de/lehre/ss13/seminare/hauptseminar-innovative-internettechnologien-und-mobilkommunikation/). The page content is as follows:

- Sensornetze
- Identifikation und Autorisierung
- Sichere Internet-Anwendungen
- Fortgeschrittene Audio und Videodienste
- Netzinstrumentierung
- Datenschutz
- Anonymisierung erfasster Daten

Betreuer t.b.a. und weitere Mitarbeiter des Lehrstuhls

Modalitäten Kurzfassung der "Spielregeln":

- Seminarsprache Deutsch
- Vorträge und Ausarbeitungen können auch auf Englisch verfaßt werden
- Vortrag (ca. 20 Minuten)
- Ausarbeitung im Stil wissenschaftlicher Publikationen (5-8 Seiten)
- Regelmäßige Teilnahme (Anwesenheitspflicht)
- Erstellung von mind. 2 Reviews
- Session Chair bei einem Vortrag

Terminplan

Vorlagen Templates bitte entsprechend den aktuellen Seminardaten:

- [Templates für Word/PPT](#)
- [Templates für Latex-Ausarbeitung - Folien](#)
- [Templates für Reviews](#)

Finale Abgabe (ZIP file) besteht aus DOC-file oder kompletten original LATEX-Files inkl. PDF! Bitte keine Seitenzahlen angeben.

Hier ein [Beispiel](#) für ein kritisches Review inkl. Version 1 und 2 der entsprechenden Ausarbeitung, die sehr gut waren.

[Hinweise zur Anfertigung einer Ausarbeitung an unserem Lehrstuhl](#)

Upload-Formular (Deadlines: s.o.)

Sonstiges [Folien zur Vergabeveranstaltung](#)

Folien zu den Spezialvorträgen:  
"Wie schreibt man eine Ausarbeitung?"  
"Wie gibt man Feedback? Wie schreibt man ein Review?" (**Daten entsprechend obigen Deadlines ändern**)

Programm

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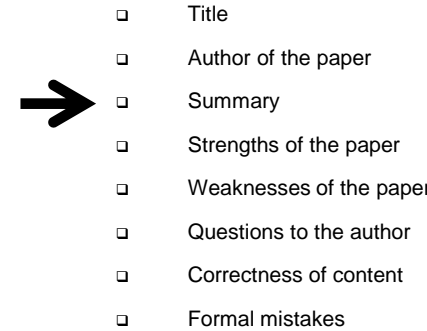


- ❑ Title
- ❑ Author of the paper
- ❑ Summary
- ❑ Strengths of the paper
- ❑ Weaknesses of the paper
- ❑ Questions to the author
- ❑ Correctness of content
- ❑ Formal mistakes



# Summary

- 5 - 10 sentences
- Purpose?

- 
- Title
  - Author of the paper
  - □ Summary
  - Strengths of the paper
  - Weaknesses of the paper
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Summary

!=


copy + paste of the abstract



- ❑ Is this paper worth being published?


→ Why?

- ❑ Does it provide additional value compared to the (cited) sources?
- ❑ Are explanations and facts presented in an understandable way?
- ❑ Structure, golden thread?
- ❑ Methods, results, claims, conclusions?
- ❑ ...

- 
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- Is this paper not worth being published?

→Why not?

- Is it off topic? Are the pages filled with useless content to reach the required number of pages?
- Are statements based on well argumentation, cites, good examples that fit the story of the paper?
- ...



# Suggesting Improvements

- Title
- Author of the paper
- Summary
- Strengths of the paper
- Weaknesses of the paper
-   Questions to the author
- Correctness of content
- Formal mistakes

- Did you understand everything? Were statements precise?
- Was everything important well explained?
- Were some of the explanations hard to understand?
- ...



# Finding Mistakes

- ❑ Are there any (technical) mistakes?
- ❑ Is the author precise? Some terms may be hints:
  - Many, often, most, long, *passive sentences*, uncountable, a growing number of, ...
- ❑ Does the author clearly distinguish his opinion from facts
  - Cites (Can you really find the information in the cited source?)
- ❑ ...

- 
- ❑ Title
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  - ❑ Formal mistakes



- ❑ Number of Pages
- ❑ Formatting
- ❑ Spelling, grammar, impression & optic
- ❑ Narrative style? False friends?
- ❑ References graphics + explanation?

- ❑ Title
- ❑ Author of the paper
- ❑ Summary
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# Expectations

- Extent:
  - ~ 2500 characters per review
    - May vary depending on the quality of the reviewed paper
  - 25% of the final grade (= 1 of 4 ECTS)
    - ~ 30 hours (for both reviews)
  
- The quality of the review will be judged
  - This means the reviews are part of the reviewer's grade
  
- We expect from you:
  - Read the paper
  - Look up (most of) the references
  - Understanding the topic (if required do own research)
  - Provide profound feedback
  - Encourage improvement of the paper.



*Q: May I make comments directly into the PDF?*

A: Yes, this makes perfect sense for e.g. spelling mistakes. Just make a comment into your review like: “The paper has many spelling mistakes, see unnoted PDF”. Upload of both files as \*.zip

*Q: Is this fair if I get graded for reviews someone else has written?*

A: We will grade the reviews written by YOU (each with 12,5%) about others. Grading of these sub parts is made by the advisor of the reviewed paper, not by your advisor.

*Q: Can an you provide me an example of good reviews?*

A: Until 2013 reviews of papers have been published at the Internet Measurement Conference (IMC). This is a good conference and most reviews are of high quality. Link:

<http://conferences.sigcomm.org/imc/2013/program.html>

