We have found a large portion of the COS212 practical 2 submissions to have significant similarities. This assignment was due on 3 Sept 2015 and was evaluated in lab sessions on 3 Sept, 7 Sept, 8 Sept and 9 Sept.

We deem it important that students are educated about cheating, plagiarism, intellectual property rights and the consequences of academic dishonesty. Many students seem to be under the impression that as long as the work that is submitted can not be clearly identified as plagiarism, then it is acceptable. There may be students who feel that in certain situations it may be justified to copy code or hack code with the wrong intentions. This is in sharp contrast with the value based attitude towards learning we hope to instill.

During the assessment of this practical assignment, the teaching assistants had to evaluate the level of understanding achieved by each student. They were also instructed to indicate if they have reason to suspect that the submitted work may not be the student’s own work.

We have decided to award 0 marks to all students for the tasks when we have reasonable suspicion that the work for the task was not their own work. Please note the following:

- When a mark of 0 is assigned, it may be because the solution is wrong OR that we have reasonable doubt that it is the student’s own work. We do NOT claim that the work is plagiarised.

- Students who want to contend our decision are welcome to to make an appointment to discuss their specific case. Send e-mail to COS222queries@cs.up.ac.za to request an appointment.

- **Not contending the decision is NOT seen as admitting that the work is not your own work.**

- When a meeting is requested, the meeting will be used to determine if we have probable cause to suspect plagiarism. If the outcome reveals that the student is above suspicion, his/her eligible marks for the task will be awarded. If, however, the contrary applies, we will send the evidence for the legal department to take further legal action.

Students are advised to read the draft Plagiarism Policy document available at [http://www.cs.up.ac.za/cs/vpieterse/pub/PlagiarismPolicy.pdf](http://www.cs.up.ac.za/cs/vpieterse/pub/PlagiarismPolicy.pdf) to gain deeper understanding of the issues related to this incident before deciding how they choose to act upon our decision.