The business paper will be done in teams of about four people. We ask you to try to form your own groups. Ideally the groups should have a mix of engineering and non-engineering students, as well as a mix of students with different levels of experience. As a group, turn the names of the people in your group, as well as a ranked list of company choices (#1 is your first choice, #2 is your second choice, etc.) that you would like to study in your project. **At least two of the companies on your list should be taken from the following preferred list:**

- Wal-Mart, Southwest Airlines, Charles Schwab, Home Depot, Netflix, Amazon

Pick companies for which information systems played a key role. If you do not find enough classmates to form a group of 4, turn in your company preferences as an individual or small group and we will pair you with other students to form a complete group. The instructor and TAs will do the final assignment of teams and companies.

Avoid companies that are especially spread over multiple industries, as this will make writing a good paper much more complicated. In particular avoid choices like Apple, HP, IBM, and Google. If you write about Amazon, keep the focus on its online retail business and not the web services business.

To help us pick balanced groups, we will also ask you to assess what you think are your strongest skills from this list below. Pick 1 or 2 of these for each person, and put them in rank order for each person.

- W: Writing
- A: Accounting and finance
- C: Computers and technology
- S: Business strategy
- L: Literature search

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Companies 1. 2. 3. 4.

**EXAMPLE:**

Bob Smith    smith@yahoo.com  A, L
Jane Do      do@hotmail.com   C, W
Chris Tomas  chris@gmail.com  S, W