

To : Participants of LSOR III-2017 “Applying Optimization to the Real World”

To ensure you are ready for the training on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2017, please do the following as soon as possible to ensure you have the right tools for the training.

- The assumption is that all participants are using Windows-based laptops with Microsoft Office installed. I cannot guarantee all the instructions and software below will work with Apple laptops.
- Please ensure each laptop has at least 4 GB of free space. If not, please back-up unimportant and large files (e.g. picture, music and video files) to an external hard disk.
- One of the top-performing commercial solvers which can solve large problems with database connection is IBM ILOG CPLEX Optimization Studio. The Community Edition (limited to 1000 variables and 1000 constraints) can be downloaded free for learning purposes. You need to register at IBM website and it may take 2-3 business days before access is given to download the Community Edition. The download size is about 700MB. Installation requires about 3 GB of free hard disk space.

<https://www-01.ibm.com/software/websphere/products/optimization/cplex-studio-community-edition/>

- Please enable Microsoft Access from your Office setup. You can do this by going to “Control Panel”, select “Uninstall a Program” or directly go to “Program and Features”. The list of programs installed will appear. Highlight Microsoft Office, and select “Change” at the top of the screen, then select “Add or Remove Features”. From here, please select the drop down button on the left side of Microsoft Access and select “Run all from my Computer”. Click “Continue” and Microsoft Access will be installed.
- Please register and download Excel Solver spreadsheet examples. We will not use them in our training, but will be reviewed. It is a very good reference since many examples have been developed for different types of problems and industries.

<http://www.solver.com/examples-optimization-problems>

- The built-in Excel Solver has limitations in problem size. If you wish to continue using Solver in Excel without any problem size limitations, you can download OpenSolver which is free. Installation instructions are available on the website.

<http://opensolver.org/installing-opensolver/>

You must complete all the above before the training. Per the license agreement, we are not allowed to distribute the installation files (i.e. copy and share with others) except for OpenSolver which is free and open source. We don't have time to do the above during the class since the agenda is packed and internet connection may be slow.

Thank you.

Best regards,

Dr. Anwar Ali