Taking Flight with Copilot

Brînză Alina-Elena, Apăvăloaei Alexandru-Teodor, Astăluș Adrian-Claudiu

HOW EASY/HARD WAS TO INSTALL?

Copilot is a paid tool from GitHub, but as a student you can have it for free if you are part of the Global Campus. The process to join is quite simple, you need an institutional email and a photo of a document that proves you're a student.
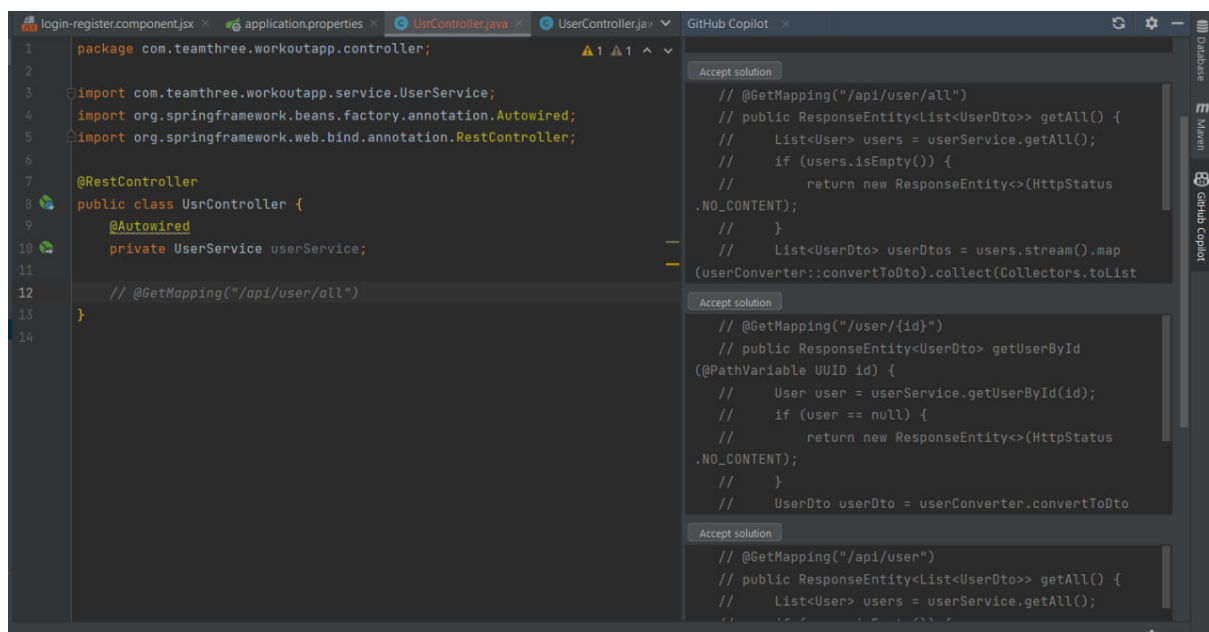The tool comes as an extension for a lot of IDEs and is very easy to install directly from the IDE. Once installed, you have to sign in to your GitHub account from the extension's menu and you can start to use Copilot.

HOW EASY/HARD WAS TO USE?

The tool is easy to use, given that it works similar to the preexisting autocompletion. You write code as usual and the suggestions appear directly in the current document. They can also be seen in a separate window. You can use various keyboard shortcuts to accept a suggestion, to see other suggestions and so on. Usually, these shortcuts are written in the extension's menu, so the user can easily use them. Sometimes, the suggestions for the code are not shown as a full function/method, but rather as small code blocks that you have to accept each time they appear. Overall, Copilot is not a hard tool to use and it is made to help the user.

BENEFITS OF THE TOOL

The AI standing behind GitHub Copilot was trained using a very large volume of code written in multiple programming languages, so its uses are close to unlimited, but it will also take into account the context of the user's work. GitHub Copilot also has the ability to adapt to the programming style of the person using the tool, so that there is no discrepancy between the code generated by the tool and the one written by the developer. In other words, GitHub Copilot will help you integrate the knowledge it has acquired into your code, way easier and faster, also allowing the user to focus more on the quality of code, both written or generated, which may boost the productivity even more than such tool already does.
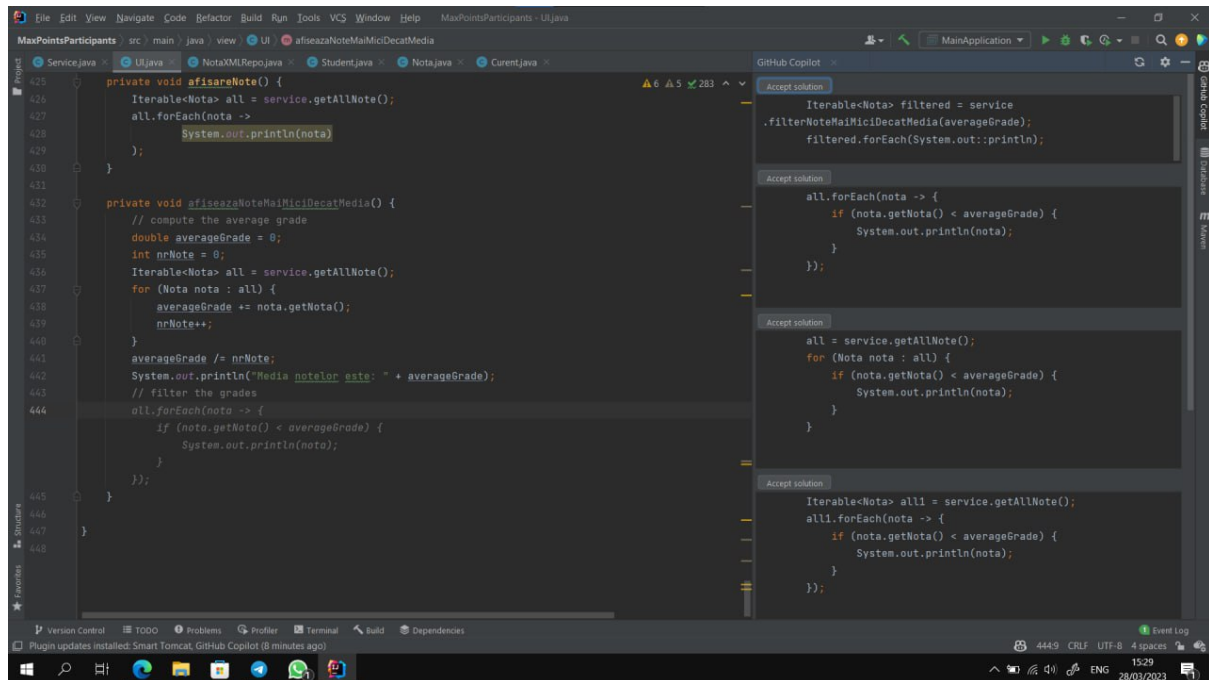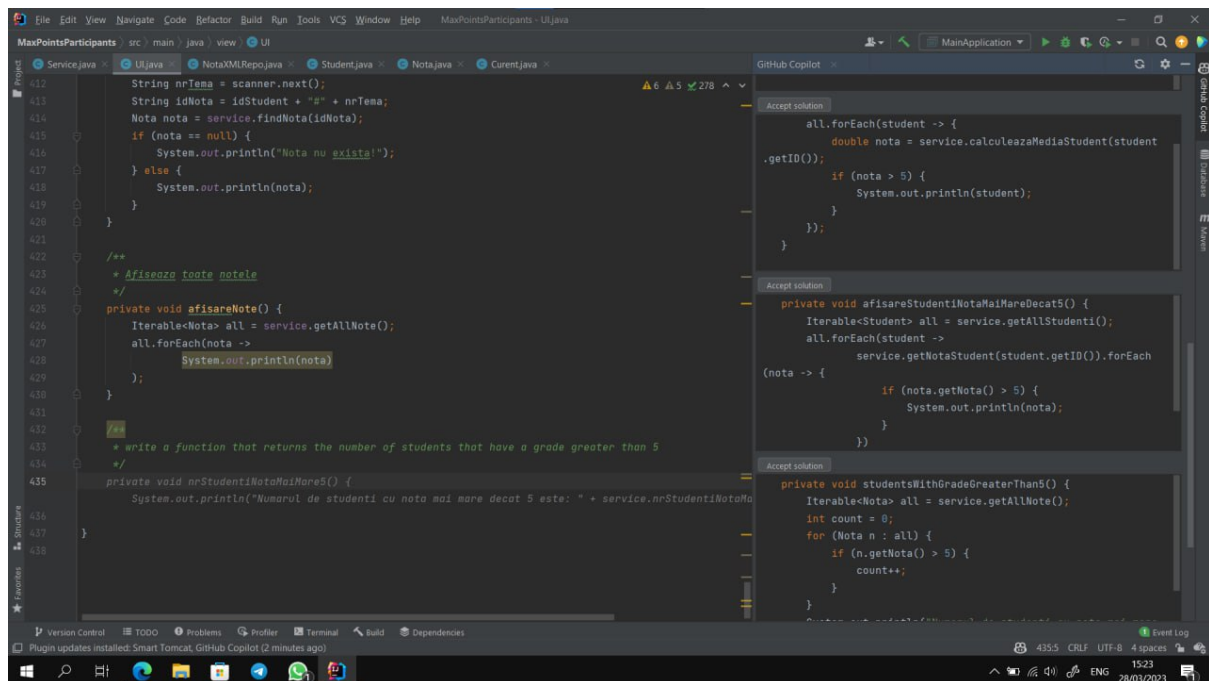
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GitHub Copilot's suggestions for a Rest Controller get all type of function

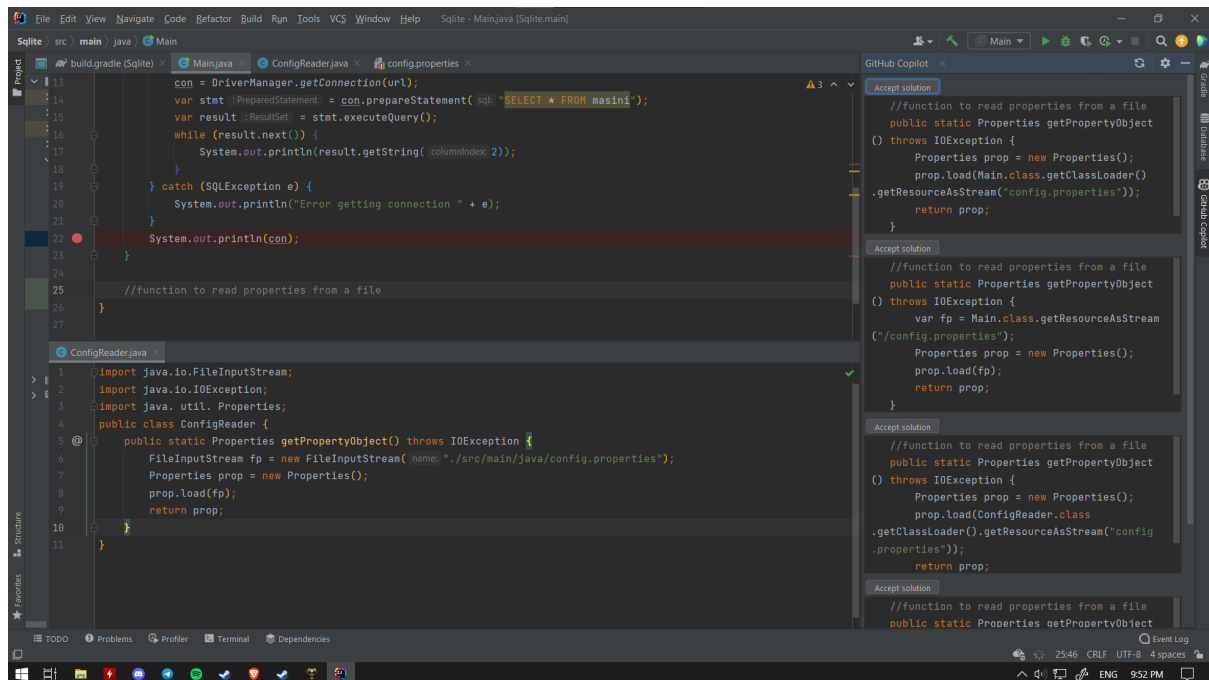GitHub Copilot's suggestions for a for each from a comment

GitHub Copilot's suggestions for the function described in the last comment
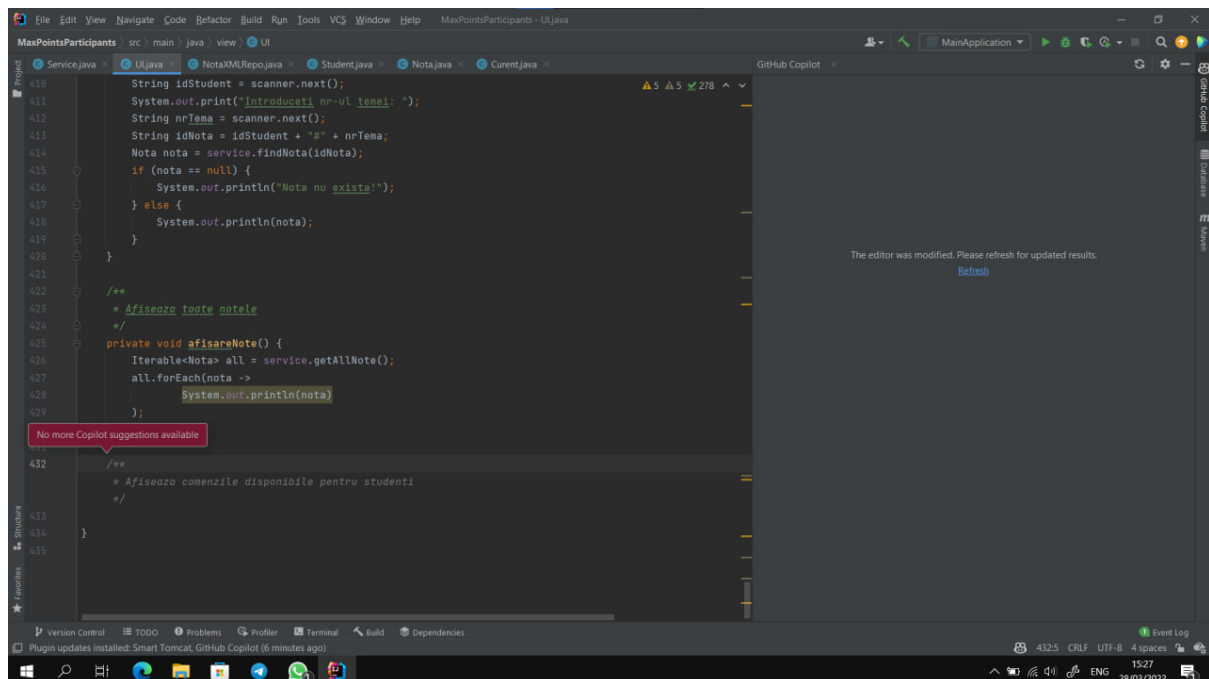
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GitHub Copilot's suggestions for a function that reads properties from a file, suggestions which are very similar to a human written code

Displayed message when Copilot has no suggestions to give