

Lab Two – Philosophical Reflections

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1 My Takeaways

For my lab I chose to do my second program in Java and compare that to Erlang. Java being an object-oriented language is vastly different from Erlang which is a functional language. These two languages were invented for different purposes and it is very evident. I did not fully realize the difference until I tried doing this lab. Erlang for instance does not perform loops like Java does so it heavily relies on recursion. I feel like when I am programming in Erlang I have to find a lot of work-arounds for performing the tasks that I need to.

Another difference between the two programs was that Erlang can program something that computes the result that another program would but with less code. It seems more straight to the point, although complex. Java, on the other hand, requires more lines of code and is not as straightforward even though it is simple enough to clearly see what each step is doing. Erlang's recursive functions throughout this lab I found ended up condensing a lot of processes into one or two lines.

Overall, I discovered that I highly prefer object-oriented languages like Java over functional languages like Erlang because I do not like being forced to take a certain approach as I had to do with Erlang in this lab.