Ashleigh Robie

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PA 3 Reflection Essay

The programming assignment before this definitely help get us started on this PA. Like the last one, the one thing I found extremely helpful for this assignment was drawing out the maps. My tier two code looks to be N3, so I had to draw every step to understand what was happening because clearly my logic is very convoluted. When I normally write these reflection essays, I feel very discouraged in regards to my coding abilities, but this time it was different. I think it is because hash tables finally clicked with me. This assignment was less about trying to get all the code down and see if it does what I want, and more about figuring out conceptually what was happening and then writing it. It was much more relaxing. An obstacle that kept causing me issue was that the deliveries was a vector of strings, but each house on route was in its own vector. To fix this issue I put all the deliveries in one vector. I feel like as a programmer this was a mistake because it makes things easier, but also increases the run time. Another obstacle that I could not figure out was how my map created random connections for tier 2. It made me realize that it “looks” likes my code is working correctly because I am getting the correct time, but my route is not being executed in the order it should. Zahory and I worked on our programming assignment together which I thought helped the most because we were able to discuss how our algorithm laid out while using different languages. Towards the end of this assignment I was just trying to get the right answer, so my code for tier 3, I felt was a little funky. This assignment was a success in that I feel I finally mastered just sitting down and thinking about what is happening and putting it into code. It has become so much easier to figure out the bug and fixing it. I definitely see that these programming assignments improve my coding abilities. Also, changed the connection, C to D for map 1 to have a weight of 2, instead of 1 to match the map on the programming assignment paper.