*Posted on February 24th, 2014*

**COMP361 - Reflections on Assignment #2**

This assignment has been much easier for me to get a handle on compared to the first assignment. The previous assignment had me wading into an unknown ocean. I wasn't sure if I was on the right track at all, and the scope of the required answers seemed very daunting. However, after receiving good results on the first assignment, my confidence in my own understanding of the material has been bolstered. This has allowed me to tackle this assignment with more assurance. Additionally, the scope of this assignment is large, but most of it has already been worked out from the previous assignment, so this familiarity also made answering the questions easier. More specifically, it was easier to create most of the descriptions and the use case diagrams because these are based off the event table in the previous assignment.

However, this assignment was not without its own difficulties. The sheer number of descriptions needed was very large, because there were so many events in the event table. Thank goodness most of them were only brief descriptions. Yet the most difficult part for me was keeping track of the domain model class diagram. I went through all the use cases and made the diagram with the corresponding entities and relationships. However, as I began writing the use case descriptions, I discovered that the relationships were not quite the way I had modeled them or that other entities and attributes needed to be added. As I added and shifted things around, the model became more confusing, and I would often switch back and forth between ideas on how to represent what I wanted.

For those attempting this assignment for the first time, I would warn them that the domain model class diagram you make on your first attempt should be a quick preliminary run, which you confirm and or update as you work through each use case description in detail. You should only attempt to understand the diagram fully when you have completed the entire assignment, so you can be sure that your diagram is as complete and accurate as possible.

With the use case descriptions themselves, I found a further difficulty. I wanted to make sure that the intermediate and fully developed cases were complete, and covered all aspects of the use case. I found that I did not have as much familiarity with the material as I had assumed at times, and I would go through the use cases several times to make sure I had what I thought to be a complete description. I wasn't sure when to include a two small processes in a single step, or to break out each one into its own step. In the end, I just did what made the most sense, or seemed the most elegant to me. I would recommend that others do the same as they work through the assignment so that they can easily understand what they have done as they review their work. What makes sense to you will probably be the same for most others, if you put care and effort into the process.

Overall, I am pleased with how the assignment turned out. In general, I would advise others to carefully review all that they have done throughout the assignment as soon as they are finished. This sis because the diagrams and the descriptions are based on the same event table, and each one can inform the others as you work through them. If you describe something in a use case that is not modelled in the diagram, then you should update it. If you list an attribute in your diagram that is not mentioned in any of your use cases, then you should look into the discrepancy. In the end, this will allow for the most complete description of the system.

Again, good luck to everyone on Assignment 2!