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CS 165
End of course reflection

My experience in CS165 this past quarter seemed to fly by with how fast the material was covered, but there were many important lessons learned. Some of my favorite topics were pointers, and subsequently dynamic memory and linked lists. When first covering pointers, their value wasn't exactly clear until we covered how passing large data objects can become inefficient. Not only did this lesson add value to the use of pointers, but it also taught me valuable lessons when it comes to how the program works behind the scenes. The utility of pointers was further demonstrated when combined with dynamic memory and later linked lists. These lessons really helped me understand how to organize, access and locate data within my applications.

While pointers were also confusing to learn, the subjects that gave me the most trouble were operator overloading. It seemed straight forward, but the subtle differences between copy assignment, member/non-member overloading, prefix/postfix increment, and stream operations were very difficult to keep track of without referencing the textbook. While this subject may not be the most difficult conceptually, it was difficult for me and will be an area that I will need to practice in order to improve, as the memorization will come with repetition.

This class was my first experience with learning online, and I feel it went pretty well. The lectures covered the material well enough, but I quickly learned that to fully understand the material the required reading and doing each chapter's programming challenges on my own were a big help. I thought the group projects went much better than expected. With an online team, I was concerned that some teammates wouldn't contribute, but on both projects all teammates helped out.

Lessons I learned from CS165 that I will use in future courses are the basics of how to plan my code as well effective debugging techniques. The good habit of writing pseudo-code for each of my programs has been established and will add value to all my future projects. I also established good habits of writing stubs for each function which allowed me to compile as I go without issue.

This course has actually expanded my view on what a career in computer programming will be like. I initially expected my degree in Computer Science to supplement my career as a Product Manager, but the more I code, the more I envision a more rewarding work life solving problems as a developer vs. dealing with product/business issues.