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MART120

Homework 1

Having worked in IT for almost a decade now, I’m familiar with both CLI and GUI interfaces in Windows, though not so much from a developer’s perspective. However, I think a lot of the same pros and cons apply here. There are many differences between the two options, but I will describe the ones I consider to be the most important.

The first, most readily apparent difference is ease of use. Using a command line is simply more difficult than using a graphical interface. With a CLI, you need to know the full command of what you want to do, and you also need to type it out without any spelling or formatting errors. In a GUI, the very same command might be as simple as clicking a couple buttons. This is likely the largest difference between the two options, and the one that likely prevents the most people from opting to use a CLI.

The next biggest difference that comes to mind is that the command line is often the more powerful tool. This power comes from having a wider range of flexibility than a GUI (in most cases). For a GUI, every single option needs to be graphically represented in the interface, whereas with a CLI, every option is available from the start. It may require more knowledge to execute these commands from a CLI, but in many cases, it’s the only method.

Finally, the CLI is the lightest weight option of the two. By that I mean that the command line requires the fewest resources to function. In order to use a GUI, an application needs to run and provide the interface for you to interact with. This program will use up memory in a computer and could potentially slow things down. Adding this GUI also leaves room for more issues to arise. A poorly coded interface could call for far more resources than necessary, leading to further slowdowns. By contrast, none of this is necessary for a CLI. The CLI simply executes the commands you enter and uses no more resources than necessary.

These are the main differences that stand out to me. In particular, the ease of use one has the most effect on me. As long as a GUI is available, I’d far rather provide the resources to use the GUI over the CLI. I tend to avoid the CLI unless it’s my only option for achieving what I want to accomplish. However, I will stay open-minded. Maybe this course will provide more of an opportunity to learn to appreciate the CLI more.