To: Software Development Instructors
From: Alanna Pasco and Brock Fenbert

Subject: Exploratory Programming Experience

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Our experiences with the exploratory programming tasks thus far have been valuable for learning a number of things: First, we found it beneficial to experience pair programming virtually, via Zoom, before our assignments become more extensive, in order to deal with technical errors now that would otherwise take time away from lengthier assignments in the future. We were also grateful to have exposure to new tools that are not covered in previous classes which are vital to the software development process, including learning about TCP connections, various JSON libraries, etc. Similarly, it was interesting to research different GUI and JSON libraries in a comparative way and learn how to evaluate such libraries. Lastly, we found it helpful to be asked to run code as an executable instead of running it in an editor, gaining agility at the command line in the process.

Nevertheless, all of the above mentioned lessons took time and effort to learn. Our assignments were all completed in small segments over the course of 1-2 days, and all required research and evaluation before even writing code. There were a few times we ran into errors that took additional research to solve but so long as the effort was put in and attempts made, the resolution always followed.