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Program Exit Assignment

The lab I have chosen for the PEA is lab #5. In this lab there are 5 system specifications to be used to find out if when put together they are all consistent or not. I also had to answer some questions to make sure I understood what I was doing and didn’t copy off someone else’s work. To solve this lab, I first set all the statements into compound statements to simplify the truth table making, for example, I turned “the file system is locked” into ‘q’. After simplifying, I could make a truth table based on all the specifications. The truth table, then proved that the specifications were consistent by showing no impossible circumstances.

Some key decisions I had to make in this lab would be the decisions to simplify the specifications and create a truth table.This was a problem for me because up to this point, I could tell what the outcome would be without simplification or a truth table.I would just do the table in my head because they were small enough to solve without having to draw one out. However, the lab was different, there were a lot more specifications and just solving with my mind would have been nearly impossible. So making a truth table significantly helped show the consistency of the statements. The decision to simplify was also very useful. If I would have not simplified, the truth table would have taken much longer then needed. For example one of the statements was “will be sent to the message buffer”. If I were to use that instead of ‘q’ then not only would the truth table not fit on the paper, I wouldn’t have been able to finish the lab in time.

The roadblock I encountered would be when I forgot how to tell if something was consistent or not. To solve this I just used my notes to remember how to figure it out.

When doing the lab I had to frequent my notes to make sure I was making the huge table correctly. I had made sure to make examples of different sized tables in my notes so they helped a lot. The notes on turning statements into compound statements also helped because the specifications were a little tricky. I also asked my classmates for help figuring out how to simplify the specifications. This was needed because some specifications had already come “off” and I didn’t know if they should be a NOT or not. When I thought I was finished, I asked the teacher if the solution was correct, if I wasn't, I would have asked where the problem was so that I could fix it.

The advice I would give to someone to help do this lab would be to make sure they know their truth tables. If I had practiced a little more on them, I would have gone much faster and would have more time to make sure the answer was correct. I would also advise practicing the transformation of a statement into a compound statement. The specifications in this lab were a little tricky and without this knowledge anyone would have a hard time understanding them.