

Studio: Strategic Debugging

Goal

So far, students have run into a fair number of errors. As we delve deeper into the class, it becomes more and more important that students become independent problem solvers.

Activity

1. (10 min.) Take some time to discuss an error that each person has seen and how they solved it. While people are talking about how they solved the error, write down the different resources they used.
2. Review each resource and the pros and cons based on YOUR experiences as a developer.
3. Go over the following process and how it can help people solve their errors faster and more strategically.
 - a. Check the stacktrace to read the error message and see where it occurred.
 - b. If they see the error, fix it on that line and recompile.
 - c. If they cannot see the error, google the error message.
 - d. Check any relevant StackOverflow posts in the results.
 - e. If the error is related to built-in methods or objects, also search for those in the official documentation.
 - f. If the error is related to something that cannot be done in that particular language, look at the responses to each comment before trying to replicate proposed solutions. Solutions can oftentimes go out of date and responses will tell you if that is the case or simply if it is a bad solution.
4. Have students review their errors before and see how they would have solved it if they followed this method.