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Essay 1

During the process of creating the DFA diagram on lucid charts I ran into a few issues. The first issue right off the bat was that the free account on lucid chart only allows you to use 60 objects in a document. This is obviously a problem since the DFA has over 70 nodes and also an arrow and textbox that goes with each node. However I was able to overcome this by signing up for a student account. The second and biggest problem I had while creating the DFA diagram was readability. A diagram of this size while easy to make is hard to make readable. When I finished my first attempt I had trouble figuring out which arrow came from where and where it went to. I solved this by moving every node and textbox farther away from each other so that there would be less overlap and it would be easy to see each individual node and textbox. If I had to do this lab again I would spend more time on planning how I wanted the diagram to look like and how to handle different branches that arise from accommodating two different variants of the for loop. Another problem I had was the error nodes. The error nodes were difficult to implement because they effectively double the amount of lines in the diagram making it even harder to read. Also I was not sure if there was a set symbol for a blank space so I just wrote SPACE whenever I needed a bland space, I had the same issue with tab so I used TAB as the tab symbol.

Essay 2

To implement this in java I would use 3 arrays, a for loop and if statements. Assuming the users input is submitted as a string of characters, the first array would contain the user input each element being a char. The second array would be the first possible variation of the for loop and the third would be the second possible variation of the for loop as provided by the lab. I would use a for loop to compare the elements of the user input array to the two acceptable variant arrays. For example the for loop would start by checking if the first element of the user array was equal to the first element of the first variant array if they were equal then it would move on to element two. If they were not equal then it would check the first element of the user array against the first element of the second variant array, again if these values were equal it would move on to the next element in the user array. However if these values were not equal it would exit the loop and print an error message saying that the user input is invalid.

This is a sudo-code example of the algorithm

The picture on the following page is the DFA. It starts on node q0 and ends on node q67. All nodes above q67 are error nodes and all nodes with a bold border are exit nodes. Also each error node circles back to itself to show that any input from that point on is an error. To avoid more clutter I did not write the word other for every line that points to an error node, but it should be understood that if the user input is anything other than a specified accepted input then the user is moved to an error node. For example in q0 if the user inputs anything other than 'f' the user is moved to the error node q74. As mentioned before I was unsure of what symbol to user for a blank space, a tab, and a new line so I used SPACE, TAB, and NEW LINE respectively.

