COSC 603

Software Maintenance & Testing

Spring 2016

**Project #2 – Refactoring and Design Smells**

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**Task 6 – Refactoring: Renaming a Class Field**

***For this task, briefly describe if this omission is an oversight on the part of Eclipse’s refactoring operation and why or why not. Additionally, briefly describe how (or if) this operation is any different than a simple find all and replace.***

Answer:

Having one checkbox that would say “Rename method’s parameters” at the time of selecting what would be included in the rename process, would not hurt. Nevertheless, Eclipse’s capability to identify references to a specific method, class, field, or variable names does not go specifically to explain what that portion of code does, or if the code would work different than originally planned; that is human decision and work. Thus keeping a parameter with the previous field name would not be an oversight. If the code would work differently, then renaming the parameter would make its readability and understanding clearer.

Using a simple find all and replace to rename a field, has to do with care, because these fields could have many references and different classes may have methods or variables or field with similar names and could cause undesirable changes.

Using Eclipse’s Rename refactoring will make those changes throughout the entire project intelligently, without user intervention because Eclipse can identify references to a specific method, variable, or class names.