***March 21, 2014***

Started off the project today by creating the main frame, 3 different panels that are meant to serve as the different screens, and a panel for buttons, the top section, and centre section. I had a much better time connecting the panels to the main frame and getting it to look the way I wanted to than last year’s project. I also looked at a couple online examples and YouTube videos for radio buttons in java. Currently, I have no idea what “Override” means, and it seems to be popping up a lot in the online examples, this worries me a bit.

***March 24, 2014***

Got initial goals sheet back from Mr. Grondin today, will have to separate the concepts of radiobuttons and cardlayout into two different projects. I originally wanted to try implementing both into one program, but this will have to do. Nothing in the program has really changed since the last journal entry. I am still unsure as to how I am going to approach the whole “switching panels after clicking a button idea”. Also, adding on to Mr. Grondin’s new specifications, I will have to add an additional button that will check the status of the radio button selected and use action listener to do something. Seeing as how I don’t even know how to use action listener properly, and the fact that I can’t even grasp the idea of card layout yet, I am not sure how this project will work out. The only confidence I have in my programming is added buttons to a panel as such:

panMain panmain = new panMain();

add(panmain, BorderLayout.CENTER);

I have done some research on how to implement radiobuttons, and I discovered some new concepts like a buttongroup or a panel that contains different panels. However, I am also extremely frustrated just at my own coding abilities because whenever I search online for a lesson on coding, I come across websites that use only programming terminology, so I found it extremely tiring having to search up each individual word only to be introduced to a dozen new words which I did not understand in the least bit. Stackoverflow did this A LOT.

PS: I wish I had saved the deleted code that I tried to use for my project, there was a lot that I created that did not work

***March 28, 2014***

No significant changes since the last entry. I just created two separate projects for radiobuttons and cardlayout.

***March 30, 2014***

To start off, I did not do all this programming today, I was just too lazy to write about it yesterday and on the 28th, but today I got the biggest concepts down and I am actually really happy with the outcome.

First, I decided to tackle Cardlayout first since Mr. Grondin had an example on his website. After looking at his example and a couple other online ones, I had a decent idea of cardlayouts and started to program. I mainly looked at 3 websites with great examples. I came across another concept which looked very good to me, comboboxes. Soon, I had cardlayouts and comboboxes down and I actually created a “clean-cut” program that used a combobox to let the user switch between colors. Using my newfound confidence, I continued onto radiobuttons.

I think I almost lost memory because of my frustration with the radio button demo on Mr. Grondin’s website. A good example I’m sure, it was just that I was not able to grasp the concepts on it at all, especially the use of gifs. So, I moved onto other websites and got what I needed. By the end of the day, I had a program that had the exact specifications as Mr. Grondin wanted. I think that’s what made me happy the most. For the past 7 months since I have been introduced to programming, I have sadly never had a moment when I was confident in my programming. However, because of the past 2 days and the completion of my GUI programming project, even though I know it is infinitely small compared to actual programming, I actually felt I was good at programming and had much fun making the project. The concepts I learned though this programming project were comboboxes, radiobuttons and cardlayout, but I also gained a grand boost of interest and confidence in programming and I can say that I am happy with the outcome for once.