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Weekly Report – Week 3

1. What concept was most helpful? Why?

One concept I found helpful was converting to and from hexadecimal. Although I have taken quite a few computer courses before, this was always somehow overlooked. Now I know how to convert to and from hex! Another helpful concept was the innerworkings of modems. I have always wondered how the internet works, and now it is helpful to know that modems convert the digital format of computers into analogue format and when that data is received by another computer, that computer’s modem decodes the analogue into digital so the computer can understand the contents of the packet.

2. What concept was most difficult to grasp? Why?

The concept I found most difficult to grasp is using PCs as terminals. I suppose my issue is more of not understanding the definition of a terminal and how it differs from the definition of a computer. I thought all computers contained a terminal. I need to rewatch the lecture video to get this answer.

3. How do you plan to apply the knowledge?

Furthering my understanding of how computer hardware works is one way I will apply this knowledge. Understanding how internet work with a wired connection will be immensely helpful throughout this class and my collegiate and professional careers. Additionally, knowing how to convert to and from hex potentially just by sight depending on the complexity of the number will be quite helpful.

4. What question do you want to ask?

If I could ask any question it would be what is the difference between a computer and a terminal? Do all computers not contain a terminal? And why would we want to use many PCs as a terminal when PCs are less reliable and each one needs to be updated individually?