When I started this week, after I finished reading, I began to work on my initial post. The initial post immediately had me going back to my notes to confirm the differences between actual and formal parameters, because I kept confusing the two, which one was the actual and which one was the formal parameter. I then decided to create a program to show the difference between the two types of parameters and created a rough outline of what I wanted to include in my program. Once I had created the outline and started programming, I decided that an easy way for me to illustrate actual and formal parameters was to include some comments in the code and provide a screenshot of the code in my post to better illustrate the differences between the two types of parameters. This really helped because I still refer to that screenshot to confirm which type of parameter is actual and which ones are formal.

After the first post was created, I started working on the weekly assignment. My first step was to create a copy of the original Quiz java file, so that I had a backup. Then I went about implementing the other methods that were required for the assignment. After I had created the two methods, I ran them with just the original question from the previous week because I needed to confirm the methods were working correctly.

Adding the two counter variables was the next step and the first place I got caught up. I had initially put them in the main method. This was a bit surprising because this was even before I tried to use them in any of the other methods it gave an error, the error mentioned that the only modifier that was valid for the variables was “final” this suggests to me that static variables cannot be created in a method, only within a class itself. This was something that I didn’t realize so it was a bit of a shock to discover. This caused me to look for why this is the case. The research I did suggests that the reason is because static variables are only created once when the code is compiled, so it can’t be associated with any one method and instead needs to be available to everything within the class. After the two variables were added, I ran it to confirm that the program was working as intended with just one question.

The next part I did was figure out two more questions to ask, come up with 5 possible answers and then decide if I wanted to create new strings or reuse the one string. This is where I went back on forth because it is certainly more efficient to use the same string instead of creating two additional strings, however for readability and following the code it made more sense to create the extra strings and implement the method calls and pass the correct actual parameters.

I am recognizing that each week my analytical and problem-solving skills are getting stronger, and that as I spend more time working on programming problems, I am getting a better understanding of not just the newer concepts as they are introduced, but also the older concepts that are needed to complete the required work for the week.

References

1. (2021, September 5). Static Variables in Java with Examples. Scaler. Retrieved July 5, 2023, from <https://www.scaler.com/topics/java/static-variable-in-java/>

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