CS 499 Milestone Two

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* **Briefly describe the artifact. What is it? When was it created?**

This particular artifact was created approximately 2 years ago when I applied for my first junior developer position; where it was required that I produce prompt driven code to be reviewed which would ultimately determine competency for the position. This would be the very first piece of code that I had written in Java and I tried to pull out all of the stops by making it as complex and intuitive as possible. This proved to be a full task due to the less than two-week deadline for the project and trying to learn java on the fly. This particular program was intended to calculate taxes from predetermined items and print a receipt (just like a cash register)

* **Justify the inclusion of the artifact in your ePortfolio. Why did you select this item? What specific components of the artifact showcase your skills andabilities in software development? How was the artifact improved?**

I felt that overall, this particular project was executed quite well both visually and systematically speaking. There were a few shortcomings that will be fixed with commenting, proper documentation and a potential error that may need to be addressed involving the use of a keyword “import” to justify duty tax but overall, it was a project that I went above and beyond the scope and felt quite good about. I figured that I would also include the prompt offered by the company to compare with my finished product which has expanded functionality. Technically speaking though, this project showcases the ability to implement classes, decorators and interfaces in a manner that both makes it look pretty and is fully functional and appropriate. It also showcases proper usage of different structures involving self-created algorithms and properly nested loops, if then statements and case statements. I think overall a pretty solid first project with java.

* **Did you meet the course objectives you planned to meet with this enhancement in Module One? Do you have any updates to your outcome-coverage plans?**

I’m quite frankly a bit behind on the objectives that were set forth for this project. There isn’t a lot to do but one part is proving to be painstaking. I began commenting, built a readme file and checked for proper indentation etc. but I’m not entirely sure how I want to go about dealing with the keyword dilemma. At the time I thought that it was a great concept, “imported” would we scanned automatically and the duty tax would be assessed according but for testing purposes if something were to have imported in the name but wasn’t actually imported the duty tax would be incorrect. I really like this algorithmic logic but I may need to scrap it in favor of another menu option to ensure stability and accuracy.

* **Reflect on the process of enhancing and/or modifying the artifact. What did you learn as you were creating it and improving it? What challenges did you face?**

As stated in the video from the last module, even though the code was written by me and it was fairly organized, it was quite the pain to go back and comment every code block and actually hindered me from looking for or discovering any potential flaws or weakness in the code due to being preoccupied with that feat. I am also torn about the contains algorithm utilized to auto assess duty tax because I really do like that implementation but stability and useability is the primary key. With regard to what I have learned; It’s important to start with best coding practices! Don’t just do whatever and then go back and try to make everything look better at the end you are just making more work for yourself and it can lead to aberrant behavior of code as well as other issues. I’m still a novice to coding in general but I would say that comments could be one of the most important aspects of the code. Needless to say, I will never forget the proper coding practices and will continue to build upon them. In this particular case, I did give myself a bit of a pass due to it being my fist java assignment.