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Mr. Zamansky  
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### Project Reflection

My partner and I came up with the idea for our project after hearing Mr. Zamansky give it as an example in class. We were originally going to run it in the terminal, then create a GUI for it, but we scrapped the GUI portion because of the time constraints and effort involved. We conferred about the project almost always during class.

On the first day of work, my partner had a sore throat, so we created a log file instead of actually talking about the project. We listed out a bunch of priorities and then decided who would do what (at this point, I was assigned to create the GUI and about  $\frac{1}{3}$  of what would ultimately be included in the final project). My partner had the idea of temporarily using ANSI codes to format terminal output into many colors, etc. in lieu of the upcoming, hypothetical GUI. Which would never come.

Of course, I procrastinated on the project, and before I knew it, my partner had already created at least 40% of the project, including the Driver, a few formatting classes, a resource puller class, etc. Meanwhile, I had only contributed a logo for the project and typo correctioning. I never really finished my initial assignment; rather, my partner kind of carried us by writing most of my work. It was like I held a pen while he moved it, honestly. My assignment done, the only major bug left was a whole load of escape characters that were not being formatted correctly.

Then I had the marvelous idea of using a class from Apache Commons to convert all of those escape characters to Unicode chars. As I was new to using libraries and whatnot, I didn't know which files to download and keep in the project repository. So, of course, I somehow get into my head that I needed to commit to the repository not only the binary files (the stuff we needed) but also the SOURCE CODE (the stuff that we certainly did not need) of the *entire Apache Commons package*.

As a result, our Github repository stats were screwed up. Badly. What else could happen when you committed more than 540,000 lines of code at once?

For perspective: my partner added a few complete webpages to the repo as examples. This

set the code composition of our repo to something around 53% PHP and HTML, only 46% Java, 0.3% shell script (we had a program used to clear class files, recompile the program, then run it, all in one go, written by yours truly), and 0.7% Processing (this was before the GUI program was entirely axed). After I accidentally (or perhaps intentionally—I’m actually not sure myself, at this point) nuked our repo, the language statistics were approximately: 97.3% Java, 1.5% PHP and HTML, 0.1% Processing, and 0.1% shell. My partner, necessarily, had me almost immediately remove all 540,000 lines of source code (not the JAR file) from the repo. The result: Github’s code frequency chart shows a very, very thin green line kind of thing (almost unnoticeable if you didn’t know we’d worked on the project before the Great Apache Disaster) followed by a gigantic half-green, half-red rhombus.

To my credit, I was the one who managed to get the Apache code working after reading up on Java compiler paths, etc., using JAR files, etc. Although that doesn’t seem like much since I came up with the idea in the first place. Hm.



You may ask: am I happy with the project? Am I proud of it?

Yes, I am happy with the project. Yes, I am proud of whatever mess it ended up being.

~~My partner may not agree.~~

~~Scratch that, he doesn’t agree.~~ Actually, after recent consultation with him, he feels like it was just OK.

You may also ask me: could I have done this as a fresh junior, at the beginning of the term? Because of all of the regex search patterns and weird stuff we used for the project, and because of all that Java we learned this term, I would not have been able to code the project back in September. Or at least it would’ve taken me a long, long, long, long, *long*, *long*, *long*, **long** time and a lot of Googling and tutorials. Pretending I would have enough time to do all of it on my own, without taking APCS, would be like considering what NASA would do with unlimited budget (and, no, the result would certainly not be “stellar” or “out of this world”).