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CS 2024: Final Project User Manual

Welcome to Unscramble! Unscramble is a command line based word unscrambling game that uses the same word dictionary as the popular Words with Friends mobile game. To start up the game, please load up the project and launch the local debugger.

Upon launching the program, the game should begin loading. Due to the large number of words available in the dictionary, start-up will take around 20 seconds. Once the game has finished loading, the main menu will appear.

The main menu has five options listed below. To make a selection please type in the option number (1, 2, 3, 4 or 5) and press enter. To quit the game, please enter the number 5.

1. Start a round of Unscramble

2. Read the instructions

3 View high scores

4 Change settings

5. Quit

To view the instructions, please enter “2” as your selection. The instructions should be presented to you. Once you have finished reading the instructions, press any key to continue and return to the main menu.

To start a round of Unscramble, please put in “1” as your selection. As mentioned in the instructions, the goal of Unscramble is to unscramble as many words as possible in a set time limit. The default time limit is 60 seconds, but this can be changed under the “Change settings” option from the main menu. Once the game starts, the game will present you with a scrambled word. It is your job to unscramble that word. Once you have figured out what the unscrambled word is, type it into the command line prompt and press enter. If your word is correct, the game will inform you and present you with a new word. If your word is incorrect, the game will inform you and you will be prompted to decipher the same word again. You have unlimited attempts to unscramble a word. If at any point in time you get frustrated with the current scrambled word, type in “giveup” and the game will present you with a new word. When time runs out, a large “TIME’S UP” will appear on the screen and the round will end. You will then be asked to input your 3 letter initials. Your initials along with your score will be saved as part of the high scores.

To view the high scores, select option 3 on the main menu. The top 10 scores of the current session will be printed out for you to view.

To change any settings in the game, select option 4 on the main menu. There are 3 possible options to change: the max word length, the time limit, and resetting the high scores. Select option 1 to change the max length of the words presented to you. This is useful as longer words are more difficult and changing the word to a smaller word length will help you get started in the game. By default, the max word length is set to 30 characters. Please into the number of letters for the max word length, making sure that the number is greater than 2. The minimum possible word length available is 2. To change the time limit for each round, select option 2. Please input a number in seconds for the new time limit. This new time limit will apply to all future rounds. To clear all of the current high scores, select option 3. This will wipe all of the current high scores and start the score tracking from the default.

I hope that you enjoy playing Unscramble. The game is very difficult to play, but it is a good learning exercise in recognizing words. If you find yourself having difficulties, remember to change the max word length and the time limit to help your chances of getting a higher score.