

Subject: Spec and oracle updates, general announcements
From: Cybersecurity Capstone Project Course Team <noreply@coursera.org>
Date: 05/19/2015 09:31 PM
To: ELias Al Homsy <it-elias@hotmail.com>

ELias Al Homsy,

The latest information from [Cybersecurity Capstone Project](#) by [University of Maryland, College Park](#) on Coursera.

Hello capstone,

We have made some changes to both the specification and the oracle, to make them consistent, based on suggestions from you and discussions on the forum. The specification is available [here](#).

Summarized:

- Valid times are values between 1 to 1073741823, inclusive
- Valid rooms are values between 1 to 1073741823, inclusive
- If -B is given, the batch file exists, if some valid arguments exist but other arguments are not valid, logappend should exit with 0
- Employees and guests can have the same name
- The oracle has been updated so that names may only contain a-Z and tokens only contain a-Z and 0-9.
- We modified the scoring system to more accurately measure the space taken by log files. However, this has the side effect of being stricter. The system looks for just a log file name as specified precisely in the tests. If it cannot find an entity on the file system with that name, then the test will fail. If you are failing space tests, double check that the file you output is given the name specified on the command line.

We have noticed that tests executed on Amazon EC2 take longer, sometimes much longer, to complete than tests executed on dedicated hardware. We have been executing tests on dedicated systems and comparing those results to results scored by EC2. Largely, they are congruent. There are some teams that experience timeouts on EC2, but when we run on dedicated systems, finish tests.

For class credit, if your code passes the core tests and passes the performance tests with an unlimited timeout, you will receive credit. If you want to place higher on the scoreboard, you must make your code run faster. It seems that there is a

very bimodal distribution between teams that take less than ten seconds to complete all time performance tests, and teams that take between 20 seconds to 30 minutes to complete all performance tests (on dedicated, non-EC2 systems.) If you take more than 10 minutes to run all performance tests on a dedicated system, it seems the odds are good that you will time out on EC2.

Thanks for all your comments and assistance, and patience. Good luck finishing up!

-Andrew, James, and Mike

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