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15-112 Term Project Competitive Analysis

While searching for professional programs that use the same ideas as mine, I have discovered MuseScore, Finale Notepad, and Noteflight. All three of these programs implement the ability to create a music score from putting in a string or by allowing the user to add notes to a template. Some of these programs even have the capability of obtaining the notes directly from the instrument; however, that is not the aim of my project.

MuseScore appears to be extremely user-friendly. It guides users through the entire process. Their program allows the user to create songs from two different clefs and link them. This is a great idea for musicians do not always play in a single clef. For example, a pianist plays in both treble and bass clef. MuseScore also has the capability for users to designate which staffs are used for various instruments. The program also has the capability to add key signatures and tempos. These are ideas I may consider applying into my project if I have enough time. The only downside to this program is that the GUI does not look as clean as the other programs. When I first found the program, the GUI gave off a nineties vibe.

Finale Notepad is not as user-friendly but looks very modern. Their program allows the user to place their cursor over a premade staff and shows how the note will be placed. In addition, you can easily play the music you have written. There is also a menu to the left that gives the user a lot of options including undo part of the music that they have written. Also, the user can choose between different notes to play. Finale Notepad is a more advanced version of my idea and does not appear to take in text files and convert them into music. In addition, the user can also dictate different volumes like forte (loud), mezzo-forte (medium loud), mezzo-piano (medium soft/quiet), or piano (quiet/soft). This volume idea seems like a very implementable part into my program. I also really like their undo feature since you are able to eliminate notes that you do not want. This has given me the idea to allow my users to modify their string while they are inside of the program. One downfall to this program is that the instructions are rather small and some of the windows have labels on them that are difficult to read. This labels would have told the user what the functions within were for.

Noteflight is all web-based and has a wonderful GUI. At first, it was sort of confusing to figure out how to create a new score but it really does not have any downfalls. Noteflight comes with a premade template and allows the user to input a title onto the music sheet. It is very similar to Finale Notepad. You can type into Noteflight but you cannot really see what you have typed. Their program allows you add a composer name and a lyricist if there is one. This is something I may include in my final project. There is a simple feature that allows the user to add a measure or remove a measure, which is extremely convenient. Like the other programs, they also include a time signature feature. I would also like to include that in my term project as time signatures are extremely important in music.