To: Professor Jason Hemann
From: Andrew Leung and Fiona Gridley
Subject: Assessment of TypeScript
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Getting set up with node and TypeScript for the first assignment was somewhat difficult. Neither of us had ever written a Makefile before, and figuring out what should and shouldn't be included in the Makefile was difficult, considering few of the example files we found online were designed for JavaScript. Once we became familiar with the project configuration, including figuring out the Khoury Node versioning, setting up a TypeScript project from scratch, creating the main executable and passing command line arguments to our TypeScript scripts. After the first assignment or two, we were able to focus more on the design of our assignment code and how to solve the assignment problem, and less on boilerplate setup. As far as TypeScript's ability to adapt to the needs and requirements of each assignment, it was relatively versatile. The one exception to this was in parsing concatenated JSON, though this was solved after further research and eventually finding an adequate library after the assignment was due. Because TypeScript and JavaScript have such large developer communities, there are ample sources for documentation and libraries. We feel confident TypeScript's versatility and wealth of documentation/developer knowledge will allow us to scale-up to coding larger projects, while still keeping code clean and readable for others to interpret. As we experienced in our assignments, TypeScript/Javascript are capable languages on both the front end and back end in terms of displaying GUI and managing a server, making it an ideal well-rounded language for the both of us moving forward in future projects.