

# The Problem

You work as a developer at *LinkedOut*, a platform that connects companies with professionals.

*LinkedOut* operates a website for both professionals and companies to register and seek for jobs and candidates, respectively.

The basic goal of *LinkedOut* is to match professionals to companies so that both parts will be happy.

## How professionals and companies choose each other?

1. Each professional compiles a “**professional wish list**” that is a rank-ordered list of companies that she/he wishes to work for.
2. Every company compiles a similar list of professionals in order from most to least preferable to hire. Moreover, each company provides the number of its currently open positions (**slots**) that wishes to fill.

## Scoring

Solutions will be scored taking into account the following factors:

1. Penalty points. For each match that **both of the below points are true** the solution gets one penalty point:
  - Professional **P** would prefer to work for company **C** over the company he is currently matched withand, simultaneously,
  - Company **C** would prefer professional **P** over one of the candidates currently filling one of its slots.
2. Tiebreaker: Total execution time

Do keep in mind that during the scoring process very large lists from both companies and professionals will try to be matched, so trying to brute force the problem may not get you as far as you wish.

For a scoring example [see this case](#).

## Goal

Your project is to develop an algorithm that will match professionals to companies so that the final result is very close to an “ideal hiring”.

The final deliverables should be:

1. The executable. A command line program that will take as arguments the paths of two files containing the input and will return as an output the path of a single file containing the answer.
2. The full source code of this program.

# Constraints

- In order to have the same reference point for all submissions all executables will run in the same host running Debian Jessie. So, you are welcome to use any language you like\* as long as it produces an executable file that runs on the host. Please see the [examples](#) section for the file formats of the input and output files.
- During program execution there will be no internet/network available.
- External libraries are allowed as long as they do not implement the core algorithm of your solution.

\* Please contact me first if you are not going to use one of the following: C# (**.NET Core SDK**), Java 8 (as well as Groovy, Scala, Clojure), C, Python, JavaScript (Node.js v6.x), Ruby or Bash

## More Details

For the sake of simplicity let's assume that every company list includes every single professional and every professional ranks all the companies in the platform.

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## Example

### Program usage

usage:

**myprog** input\_companies input\_professionals output\_file

### File Formats

#### input\_companies

*Description:*

free\_slots, company\_name: comma separated list of employees in order of most to least preferable

*Sample:*

1, Microsoft: Bill, Jeff, Mark, Larry  
1, Amazon: Bill, Jeff, Mark, Larry  
1, Facebook: Mark, Jeff, Bill, Larry  
1, Oracle: Bill, Mark, Jeff, Larry

#### input\_professionals

*Description:*

name\_of\_professional: comma separated list of companies in order of most to least preferable

*Sample:*

Bill: Microsoft, Facebook, Oracle, Amazon

Jeff: Amazon, Oracle, Microsoft, Facebook  
Mark: Facebook, Oracle, Microsoft, Amazon  
Larry: Amazon, Oracle, Microsoft, Facebook

## Scoring

### output\_file

*Description:*

name of company: comma separated list of employees

*Sample:*

Microsoft: Bill

Amazon: Jeff

Oracle: Larry

Facebook: Mark

Above output is an ideal hiring, so it gets 0 penalty points.

Let's see a non-ideal hiring:

*Sample #2:*

Microsoft: **Larry**

Amazon: Jeff

Oracle: **Bill**

Facebook: Mark

This output gets **+2** penalty points because compared to the ideal one we have two professionals that would prefer to work for another company over the company they are currently matched.

# Q&A

Coming soon...