# September

## C instead of Java

### Why? PMD etc

## Splint

## FramaC, Blast, clang

## Eclipse

## 9/27 Dondero’s target errors:

Erin, Below are some comments that I find myself writing repeatedly on COS 217 student submissions. Splint does not report the stylistic errors that motivate these comments, nor does any other tool. I hope you find them helpful. Bob Dondero

* The function is very long. It would be better to split it into multiple subordinate functions, each of which does a single well-defined job.
* The function contains many levels of nesting. It would be better to factor some of the nested code into subordinate functions.
* The function contains substantial chunks of cloned code. It would be better to factor the cloned code into a subordinate function, and call that function from multiple places.
* The function should validate its parameters.
* The function makes multiples calls into the functions of another module. It might be better to define the function in that other module, thereby reducing the level of coupling between the two modules.
* The module’s interface contains the definition of a structure type. That’s a violation of encapsulation. Instead the structure type definition should be in the module’s implementation. The interface should define an opaque pointer type.
* The same structure type is defined in multiple modules. That’s a maintenance nightmare: changing one definition and forgetting to change the other would introduce an error.
* The function’s name should be prefixed by the name of its module.
* The function should have a comment.
* The function’s comment should describe what the function does, not how the function works.
* The function’s comment should refer to the function’s parameters, by name.
* The function’s comment should explicitly state what the function returns.
* The function’s comment should explicitly state which global variables the function uses or affects.
* The function’s comment should explicitly state what the function reads from stdin (or any other input stream) and writes to stdout (or another other output stream).
* The function dynamically allocates memory, and then relies upon the caller to free that memory. That’s fine, but the function’s comment should inform the caller that the caller “owns” that memory.
* Poor indentation. Difficult to understand. Did you use Emacs?
* Please limit line lengths to 72 characters. Long lines wrap, and so make the code difficult to understand.
* Please use descriptive names for variables, functions, etc.
* The module’s interface file should have the same name as the module’s implementation file (except, of course, for the filename suffixes).
* Each module should have both an interface file and an implementation file.
* An error message should begin with the name of the program that is reporting the error. That name should be argv[0]; it should not be hardcoded.
* It would be better to use enum, not #define, to define names for integral constants.
* It would be better to use enum, not “const”, to define names for integral constants.

# October

## 10/9

### Thesis Proposal

## 10/14

### Good progress and proposal. Next steps are finding a parser and consequently a language. Look into Splint and GCC only enough to ensure that building a new setup is the right idea. After language and parser and determined, spend some time both hacking out a “solution” without any form of plug-in/customization. This can then be refactored and referenced while looking into how to build up an architecture. This week also focus on getting documentation/recording setup.

#### Aux: look into getting svn put up on penguins

#### Probable parsers = JavaCC and Bison

### Email: 10/15 - The parser that I used for my dissertation is named Sable, not Sabre. No wonder I couldn't find it yesterday!  Here a reference: <http://sablecc.org/> It seems that a C99 (but not a C90) grammar is available for Sable.  See this reference:  <http://sablecc.sourceforge.net/grammars.html>.  But it also seems that the grammar works only with one particular version of Sable.  Of course that's not good.  So it might be wise to avoid Sable.

### Completed a very rough draft of the Problem Description section.

### IDIOT: Checkstyle and PMD are both customizable!

### Svn repository (off penguins) working with automatic login

## 10/21 as of 10/27

### Ok that other customizable things exist. Makes the architecture possibly a little less hard/challenging/interesting but still filling a void. Still need to focus on grammar/language (probably JavaCC or Bison/Yacc but grammar for JavaCC is a little iffy). Write follow up email at beginning of break but no meeting next week.

### David Walker: In general, it is just fine to write an analyzer for language X in a different language Y.  So you shouldn't be worried about using a Java parser generator to analyze C.  If I were you I would choose to choose JavaCC if Java is the language you are most comfortable programming in.  Also, I recommend making your choice of parser generator based on the fact that someone else had already written a grammar for C using that parser generator.  Writing a parser for C is a hard thing to do -- you don't want to do that yourself.  You want to reuse a parser someone else has written.

## Fall Break

### Email Exchange with Dondero:

#### I just wanted to write you an email checking in. I'm planning on choosing a grammar/parser generator within the next day or so. Right now I'm leaning towards Bison because I'm more confident of the grammar but I want to do another round of checking into Javacc to make sure that its really not a good choice. I'm also going to write up 'Chapter 2' of my thesis (namely discussing the other options that exist - Splint, FramaC, Checkstyle, PMD) before school starts up next week. This will obviously be rewritten/updated as I get more insight into some of the other architectures but I want to get something down on 'paper'. I also plan on having the Checkpoint Document ready for you by the beginning of next week.

#### I think your plans are fine.  In particular, I agree with your strategy of writing throughout the year rather than waiting until the end. I also agree that Bison probably is the safer choice.  It's easy to believe that few people have used Javacc with a C grammar.  Before committing to the "Javacc + C grammar" combination, I think I'd need to see strong evidence that others have used that combination successfully. As soon as I can I'll create a tar file of old ish submissions for you.  I'll let you know when I've done that.  I think it's important that you start cranking out some code soon.

### 11/6 – When I’m on campus in January, everything written prior to January needs to be in a mostly finalized form.

### QUESTION: Footnotes/endnotes/what general citation format is preferable?

### 11/6 – Finished chapter on related products (aka Splint, PMD and Checkstyle)