

# CS 373 Spring 2024: Neha Desaraju

Blog #2 | 01.28.2024

## What did you do this past week?

I worked on our first project. In particular, I worked on the first (base) solution to the project.



## What's in your way?

I realized I had to redo some of it over the weekend because I didn't completely understand the instructions; for example, we should handle the 3s replacing 1s in every category, not just the ones specified on the rubric.

## What will you do next week?

I will likely work on the final solution to the project. I also want to set some goals for myself in this class and others so that I'm able to make the most out of them! I'm taking some really cool classes this semester.

## What did you think of Paper #1. Makefile.

I wish there was some more context for the paper itself; it was the same Makefile we saw working with our projects so we already get a lot of experience looking at this specific one through that. However, I was missing a lot of insights and context into specific pieces of the Makefile and don't feel like I am able to ask even the right questions to get a full understanding of it.

## What did you think of Docker, assertions, and unit tests?

I've used Docker in the past, but I do tend to prefer virtual environments more! This might be because spinning up a VM on my machine is usually a slower way to develop and I don't work on too many intensely collaborative projects. I use assertions quite a bit mainly to sanity-check my work. I also really began to see the need for unit tests in a side project I'm doing, so our lecture on unit tests came at the right time.

## What made you happy this week?

I found out I'm getting flown out to San Francisco in a few weeks for an event! I originally thought it was going to be this weekend so I thought I'd have to skip my trip

to Boston, to where I'm also being flown out for another event. Thankfully they moved my SF trip so I'll get to experience both cities <3

### **What's your pick-of-the-week or tip-of-the-week?**

I've been thinking a lot about a new age of personal computing, thinking, and creativity. Here are a couple articles that I really enjoyed in the past few days related to that:

- <https://alexanderobenauer.com/ollos/>
- <https://www.henrikkarlsson.xyz/p/good-ideas>

Also, I thought it was funny that I came across an [article](#) about why it saves memory space to write in lowercase letters. The answer comes from Huffman compression so it was super relevant to our first semester in data structures!