

TMDB Data Filtering Project Report

The project tasked us to take a relatively broken CSV file that contains movies, TV shows and other... I was very ambitious when I started the project, as I thought the years of my C++ knowledge, and in some way, C++ logic would make this task easy enough to finish within a “days work“. It wasn't that simple. Even though the logic from C++ was mostly transferable to Java, this area of work was entirely different from what I've done in the past 5 years of C++ and Web Development. And I found myself, that before doing the actual project, I would have to learn some stuff, both from the classes we had and from the Internet (through Youtube, StackOverflow...).

Furthermore, as someone who programmed web applications and some miniscule C++ projects before this, I was always an 'ad-hoc programmer', and rarely did I have to sit down, think of a project plan and then start doing it.

This time it was different, and I had to do a lot of thinking, how I would structure the class, how I would filter the CSV, how would I remove irrelevant shows that were not broken, and how would I decide which ones were indeed relevant.

- What was most challenging?

The most challenging part was writing the code and figuring out the logic of processing each movie and deciding which one had a clean/correct structure, and which one was broken. That part alone took me several hours, and I had to change my filtering code around 10-15 times before I wrote the one that actually worked. But not before spending an hour of finding solutions on the Internet.

- What you expected to be very hard, but it turned to be easy work for you? (if anything)

I thought that Task 2 and Task 7 would swallow up most of my time, because for every iteration a new file would have to be created, and I did guess that there was an automatic way of doing that, but I did not expect it to be as simple as it was. Also, I thought that filtering movies based on the numbers of words in the title would be tedious. But it was simple.

- What you expected to be simple, but turned out to be very complex? (if anything)

If anything, it would have to be filtering the clean and broken shows, as it took the largest amount of writing, rewriting and research.

- If you are starting assignment again, what would you do differently this time?

There definitely isn't anything that I would say I did wrong. The project took me around 4-5 hours for the most part and I think I did a good job in implementing all the relevant stuff that was needed. I think that all my finished tasks are sound and satisfactory. It was a challenge, and I think that for us students it is imperative to be challenged and thrown in the fire, and to start proving us to ourselves. I think that these things heighten the morale, motivation and will to do more as programmers.