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CST-213

10/23/16

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Short Assignment 4:  JavaServer Faces

Link to GitHub repository: <https://github.com/jaymeshaze/ShortAssignment_4>

Approach to Design and Implementation

The web content is all coded in HTML for this project. There is a backend java bean (DecisionMaker.java) that is handling all of the processing of the web content, but does not have any UI elements. Within the HTML pages, JavaServer Faces is utilized to construct the GUI elements for the user. I originally was using “yes” and “no” buttons for the user to select the answer to their choice, but that turned out to be not the best option. I had difficulty coding the commandbutton to handle processing 2 methods with a single click, one to process the input variable to the correct value and then the other to process that selection to show the next appropriate page. It is possible to handle 2 events within a single click, but it would require either: 1. Implementing the ActionListener interface and then overriding the processAction method or 2. Create a method in the backend bean that calls both methods that you want to process with the button click. Both options seemed very time intensive, and it proved much more effective to utilize the selectOneListBox from JSF to make the selection and then have the button click process the method to show the appropriate next page.

I also decided to implement a “reset” button at each terminal page. This allows the user to start the decision maker from the beginning by clicking that button. This also hel;ped in my testing, so I didn’t have to close out and re-run the program all over again when randomly testing decision paths.

A screenshot of successful execution is included in the repository, showing the decision of purchasing a flower pot. (start, yes, no)