Tech Hall Visit 1  
  
CS 214 is the absolutely worst class I've ever had to take... truth tables make me want to die, recurrence relations are horrible, and I'm sick of hearing about rhubarb pie. And that's not even to mention my other classes and all the coding projects I have to do... I feel like I'm always stuck being the one that codes everything, while these other idiots get to get away with doing stuff like "writing dialogue".   
  
Whoa! Human being talking to me! Uh, hi?  
  
CHOICE:   
1. 01010100 01101000 01101001 01110011 00100000 01101001 01110011 00100000 01100110 01101111 01110010 01110111 01100001 01110010 01100100 00101100 00100000 01100010 01110101 01110100 00100000 01111001 01101111 01110101 00100111 01110010 01100101 00100000 01100011 01110101 01110100 01100101 00101110 00101110 00101110  
2. Hey, I'm trying to finish up some homework right now, I was wondering if you could tell me a real world example of an exact cover problem?  
3. How would you describe being a CS student?  
  
HER RESPONSE:  
1. 01010100 01101000 01101001 01110011 00100000 01101001 01110011 00100000 01110111 01100101 01101001 01110010 01100100 00101100 00100000 01100001 01101110 01100100 00100000 01101001 00100000 01100100 01101111 01101110 00100111 01110100 00100000 01101011 01101110 01101111 01110111 00100000 01101000 01101111 01110111 00100000 01110100 01101111 00100000 01100100 01100101 01100001 01101100 00100000 01110111 01101001 01110100 01101000 00100000 01101001 01110100 00101101 00101101 00100000 01100111 01101111 01101111 01100100 01100010 01111001 01100101 00101110 00100000  
2. Really? This is something I actually know! Sudoku would be a good example of an exact cover problem. The problem in Sudoku is to assign numbers (or digits, values, symbols) to cells (or squares) in a grid so as to satisfy certain constraints, which matches the formal definition of a an exact cover, which is Given a collection S of subsets of set X, an exact cover is the subset S\* of S such that each element of X is contained is exactly one subset of S\*. It should satisfy following two conditions: the Intersection of any two subsets in S\* should be empty. That is, each element of X should be contained in at most one subset of S\* and the union of all subsets in S\* is X. That means union should contain all the elements in set X. So we can say that S\* covers X.  
3. Honestly, I think I can sum it up by explaining a program that I ran into the other day at my internship-- I had to add a method, and, well... I was concerned first when it was broken and I had no idea why. But, what concerned me even more was after I fixed it and it was working... and I still had no idea why. It's like drinking from a firehouse and pretending I know what's going on when really on the inside I'm freaking out, losing my mind, and considering banging my head against a wall as a viable form of therapy. That's what being a CS student is like.  
  
So, tell me-- since I'm trying to get out of my own head for a few minutes here, what's on your mind currently? Not some base-level stuff either, I want to know what's REALLY going through your brain.  
  
CHOICE:  
  
1. Honestly? Not much... my brain is kind of an empty canvas right now.   
2. Well, I'm kind of curious of how I'm going to get through this semester in one piece  
3. I LOVE rhubarb pie!  
  
HER RESPONSE:   
1. Well... my initial reaction is to be miffed with you for being able to attain such peace, but then I realized it would be silly to care, so we'll call that one a push.   
  
Well, it was nice chatting with you, but I have to go pretend I know what I'm doing now. Later!  
2. I can COMPLETELY identify with that. I'm sitting in a burning room going, "This is fine." That's me. I have become the meme. You know, you aren't so unpleasant to talk to. I'll see you around!  
3. You have got to be kidding me... gotta run, goodbye...