Guidelines for Moss

Plagiarism Check for Programs

*http://theory.stanford.edu/~aiken/moss/*

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\*Note: this guide is Unix-based. Errors might happen under Windows environment.

## *Step 1 - Prepare Files Accordingly*

*(The working directory here is where all files and directories are located, including moss.pl, solution\_directory, base\_directory, solutions, and potential archived result from Moss)*

* Download all students’ codes from blackboard and unzip them under “solutions” folder.

Note: under solutions, there must be *directly* zip files of submissions of each student with no archive folder.

* Execute copyFile.sh like:

./copyFile.sh solutions

(Note: After execution, solutions folder should contain folders named like “Project1Task1AndrewID”. However, there are students who don’t name their Netbeans project zips as required. We need to manually check any outliers.)

* Create a folder named “solutions\_directory”.
* Copy students’ submission folders to solutions\_directory task by task. For example, sort folders by name and copy all folders named “Project1Task1AndrewID”.
* A valid directory containing all students’ solutions should look like this:

solution\_directory

|- Project1Task1student1

|- classA.java

|- ...

|- Project1Task1student2

|- ...

|\_ Project1Task1student3

|- ...

* Create another folder called “base\_directory”. If there are sample codes provided by the faculties, add source codes into this directory. (Note: base files need be served one by one as parameters in moss.pl).

## *Step 2 – Execute the Submission Program*

Execute moss.pl given parameters: (Please read the instructions in moss.pl for more details)

./ moss [-l language] [-d] [-b basefile1] ... [-b basefilen] [-m #] [-c "string"] file1 file2 file3

*For example:*

./moss -l java -d –b base\_directory/file1.java –b base\_directory/file2.java –c “Project1” solutions\_directory/\*/\*

(if you can’t execute it, execute: chmod 777 moss.pl)

Wait until the program provides a url for results. And this might take a short while like one or two minutes.

## *Step 3 – Fetch Results from Moss*

Moss platform is deployed as an online service, we don’t have access directly to the system, but we can access the result given by Moss.

###### Option 1: View on browser

http://moss.stanford.edu/results/result#

###### Option 2: download for local archives

wget -r -np [http://moss.stanford.edu/results/result#](http://moss.stanford.edu/results/result)

## *Step 4 – Check Results*

In the webpage, we will get results given by Moss. The results are *somewhat* sorted by percentages that two files have in common. We need to MANUALLY go into top-rated files before making any conclusion about academic plagiarism!

#### Screenshots:



