Case Study: Raster Graphics AP Computer Science A



Name: _____

Contents

1	Backgroun 1.1 Our Fi	d le Formats
	1.1.1 1.1.2	Computer Science Bit-Map File Format
2	Section #1	
	2.1 Activit 2.1.1 2.1.2 2.1.3 2.2 Activit 2.2.1 2.2.2 2.2.3	Introduction3Exercises3Questions3
3	Section #2 3.1 Activit 3.1.1 3.1.2 3.1.3 3.2 Activit 3.2.1 3.2.2 3.2.3	Introduction
4	Section #3 4.1 Activit 4.1.1 4.1.2 4.1.3 4.2 Activit 4.2.1 4.2.2 4.2.3	Introduction5Exercises5Questions5
5	Final Analy	sis
6	Template C	Classes

Background

Our File Formats

Because traditional image file formats use various forms of compression in order to save hard drive space and decrease transmission times as well as support a number of more advanced features (such as animations and alpha channels), their implementation is beyond the scope of this case study. To that end, the following two file formats have been designed in order to give the student a feel for how to handle binary image data without being bogged down with the individual details that go into advanced image file formats. They may be considered highly simplified versions of some of the more popular raster image file formats.

Computer Science Bit-Map File Format

In order to distinguish a traditional bit-mapped image from an indexed colour one for this case study, the first four bytes of each bit-map image will contain the ASCII encoded characters: 'CSBM' (Decimal: 67 83 66 77). This is known as the file's *signature* and indicates to a program attempting to process the file exactly what type of file is being read.

The following two bytes of the file will contain the width and height, respectively.

Note: Because the width and height are each restricted to a single byte of information, the maximum size of an image in this format is 255×255 .

Each of the remaining bits represents the image data as either a 0 to indicate a black pixel or a 1 to indicate a white one. Any bits exceeding width \times height should be ignored.



Computer Science Indexed Colour File Format

The signature for the Computer Science Indexed Colour File Format is 'CSIC' (Decimal: 67 83 73 67).

As with the Computer Science Bit-Map File Format, the following two bytes of the file will contain the width and height, respectively.

The next byte will contain the number of elements in the colour palette, p. What follows is a group of 3p bytes, wherein each set of 3 bytes contains the values for red, blue, and green making up each color.

Note: For the purposes of this case-study (and most colour indexed file formats), p will be a power of 2.

Finally, each remaining group of $\lg p$ bits will represent a single pixel of the image. Any bits exceeding width \times height $\times \lg p$ should be ignored.

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Section #1

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Introduction

Exercises

Questions

Activity #2

Introduction

Exercises

Questions

Section #2

Activity #3

Introduction

Exercises

Questions

Activity #4

Introduction

Exercises

Questions

Section #3

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Introduction

Exercises

Questions

Activity #6

Introduction

Exercises

Questions

Final Analysis

Template Classes