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COSC 603

**Project #1 – Reengineering Legacy Systems**

For this project we were tasked with updating old Fortran code into Java. I have actually had very recent experience with a similar task in my day job. We have an old, but small C/C++ application that does a verification of the logic of a small Access database. The functionality of this application is still relevant to our software’s lifecycle management, but our software is moving to a Java based SDK where other developers can use our parsers directly instead of relying on a GUI to do the message parsing and testing for them.

Since the entire functionality of our old desktop application is moving to a Java based SDK, it was necessary to convert the database verification tool to a Java based solution as well. I have no idea what the source code for this application looks like, but I had to re-engineer the functionality of the application in Java based only on the application’s output. This was the only major difference between this project and my recent tasker at work. For this project I had the source code but not any of the output whereas at work I had the outputs but none of the source code.

Working on both taskers simultaneously presented different challenges: Having the source code but not the range of possible outputs made it impossible to verify if what I was reengineering was the actual solution, whereas working only with the outputs while the source code was invisible made me wonder if there was any additional functionality I was missing that wasn’t obvious from the range of possible outputs from the application. Ideally if I were refactoring legacy code I would have access to both.