Vladimir Srdic

Analysis Document 2

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This assignment is traditionally done with Pair Programming. Were there times you wish you had a partner to bounce ideas off of? We will ask you to compare your experiences with these first, "single" to assignments to the paired assignments later on in the semester. Please use your answer here for reference later.

Overall I believe that I work much better alone than with a partner. I found this assignment relatively easy though having someone to confirm things that I may have been questioning myself about (such as where null cases may occur) would be nice.

Java's built-in classes Comparable and Comparator are both interfaces for doing comparisons among objects. What is the difference in the two interfaces? Give a situation when it is best to use each. Is it possible to change the extra features in LibraryGeneric such that the Comparable interface is used instead of Comparator? Why or why not?

The differences between Comparable and Comparator are that Comparable allows an object to have a natural ordering, a way that it may be sorted when you compare two of that type of object. This uses the notation Object1.compareTo(Object2) and is a built in function to the Object. A Comparator is used to sort items in a list or collection, this is useful because you can have multiple comparators to sort items in a different way. The notation of Comparator is Comparator.compare(Object1, Object2). You would not be able to change the features in LibraryGeneric to a Comparable because we need to have multiple ways to compare the items in our list rather than leave them to be ordered naturally.

Comment about the efficiency of your programming time. Did you utilize the time spent on this assignment effectively? How might it be improved?

I believe that I did use the time spent on this assignment effectively, I finished the program in one sitting though I could do with being distracted less during.

Reiterate why writing Generic code is important for this course. Phrase your answer in terms of Data Structures and Algorithms.

When learning about Data Structure and Algorithms we rarely want to use specific types of objects as this heavily restricts the flexibility and use of any given program. Using a generic typing allows us to use any sorting algorithm or data structure on multiple kinds of items and sets (though we shouldn't mix!).

How many hours did you spend on this assignment?

I spent about 4 hours on this assignment.