Case Study: Software Engineer- Backend Developer

Rules of the Game

- You have two full days to implement a solution.
- You have to solve the problem in any language without using any external libraries/gems except for a testing lib for TDD. Your solution must build+run on Linux.
- Unit tests are mandatory, so please include tests/specs. Additionally, it's a huge plus if you test drive your code.
- Please ensure that you follow the syntax and formatting of both the input and output samples. We validate submissions using automated tests.
- We are really, really interested in your object oriented development skills, but if you like writing easily extendable, loosely coupled, testable and scalable code, it is fine.
- Please ensure that the coding conventions, directory structure and build approach of your project follow the conventions set by popular open source projects in the language that you're using.
- When implementing this solution, please use Git for version control (not Github, Bitbucket or Gitlab). We expect you to send us a zip/tarball of your source code when you're done that includes Git metadata (the .git folder) in the tarball so we can look at your commit logs and understand how your solution evolved.
- Please do not make either your solution or this problem statement publicly available by, for example, using github or bitbucket or by posting this problem to a blog or forum.
- Please be honest with yourself. Working solution is as mandatory as the honest solution is.

Please don't share this problem statement with others or host the solution on any public site. You can reach out to me for any questions.

All the best!

Problem Statement

I own a multi storey parking lot that can hold up to 'n' cars at any given point in time. Each slot is given a number starting at 1 increasing with increasing distance from the entry point in steps of one. I want to create an automated ticketing system that allows my customers to use my parking lot without human intervention.
When a car enters my parking lot, I want to have a ticket issued to the driver. The ticket issuing process includes us documenting the registration number (number plate) and the colour of the car and allocating an available parking slot to the car before actually handing over a ticket to the driver (we assume that our customers are nice enough to always park in the slots allocated to them). The customer should be allocated a parking slot which is nearest to the entry. At the exit the customer returns the ticket which then marks the slot they were using as being available.
Due to government regulation, the system should provide me with the ability to find out:

a) Registration numbers of all cars of a particular colour.
b) Slot number in which a car with a given registration number is parked.
c) Slot numbers of all slots where a car of a particular colour is parked.

We interact with the system via a simple set of commands which produce a specific output. Please take a look at the example below, which includes all the commands you need to support they're self explanatory. The system should allow input in two ways. Just to clarify, the same codebase should support both modes of input we don't want two distinct submissions.

1) It should provide us with an interactive command prompt based shell where commands can be typed in

2) It should accept a filename as a parameter at the command prompt and read the commands from that file

Example: File
To run the program:
$ my_program file_inputs.txt > output.txt
Input (in file):
create_parking_lot 6
park KA01HH1234 White
park KA01HH9999 White
park KA01BB0001 Black
park KA01HH7777 Red
park KA01HH2701 Blue
park KA01HH3141 Black
leave 4
status
park KA01P333 White
park DL12AA9999 White
registration_numbers_for_cars_with_colour White
slot_numbers_for_cars_with_colour White
slot_number_for_registration_number KA01HH3141
slot_number_for_registration_number MH04AY1111
Output (to console, newline after every output):
Created a parking lot with 6 slots
Allocated slot number: 1
Allocated slot number: 2
Allocated slot number: 3

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Allocated slot number: 4
Allocated slot number: 5
Allocated slot number: 6
Slot number 4 is free
Slot No. Registration No Colour
1 KA01HH1234 White
2 KA01HH9999 White
3 KA01BB0001 Black
5 KA01HH2701 Blue
6 KA01HH3141 Black

Allocated slot number: 4
Sorry, parking lot is full
KA01HH1234, KA01HH9999, KA01P333
1, 2, 4
6
Not found

Example: Interactive
To run the program and launch the shell:
$ my_program
Assuming a parking lot with 6 slots, the following commands should be run in sequence by typing them in at a prompt and should produce output as described below the command:

Input:
create_parking_lot 6
Output:
Created a parking lot with 6 slots

Input:
park KA01HH1234 White
Output:
Allocated slot number: 1

Input:
park KA01HH9999 White
Output:
Allocated slot number: 2

Input:
park KA01BB0001 Black
Output:
Allocated slot number: 3

Input:
park KA01HH7777 Red
Output:
Allocated slot number: 4

Input:
park KA01HH2701 Blue
Output:
Allocated slot number: 5

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Input:
park KA01HH3141 Black
Output:
Allocated slot number: 6

Input:
leave 4
Output:
Slot number 4 is free

Input:
status
Output (we've used a table to make our lives easier, but tab delimited output is fine):
Slot No. Registration No Colour
1 KA01HH1234 White
2 KA01HH9999 White
3 KA01BB0001 Black
5 KA01HH2701 Blue
6 KA01HH3141 Black

Input:
park KA01P333 White
Output:
Allocated slot number: 4

Input:
park DL12AA9999 White
Output:
Sorry, parking lot is full

Input:
registration_numbers_for_cars_with_colour White
Output:
KA01HH1234, KA01HH9999, KA01P333

Input:
slot_numbers_for_cars_with_colour White

Output:
1, 2, 4

Input:
slot_number_for_registration_number KA01HH3141
Output:
6

Input:
slot_number_for_registration_number MH04AY1111
Output:
Not found

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