Introduction

Before the start of the course, my programming experience had been with C, Shell, Perl, and Java. My C and Java experience had been mainly relegated to the classroom, while my Shell and Perl experience has been largely within industry. My experience with Java in a previous course did not stress GUI development, and interacted with the user mainly through the command-line (either DOS or UNIX prompt).

Experiences with this course

Developing Java GUI applications can be tricky. I often found myself trying to figure out how I was going to implement the GUI before having the logic of the program clearly defined. Though at times, these two ideas were not mutually exclusive, and would sometimes overlap. For example, in assignment 5, I had the user’s selection of vehicle type affect both the GUI and the way the application flowed.

This was my first “online” programming course, and the first time I would actually look and try to offer constructive criticism to others regarding their code. I initially thought that since interactions are online, others might more easily take offense to criticism when compared to it given in person. However, this was not the case, and it seemed to me that most of my peers were able to accept criticism of their code without taking it as personal offenses.

Concerns

My main concern going forward is that I might forget much of what I have learned. Since I am given the freedom at work to write in any language to accomplish my tasks, I am currently trying to write more in Java. However, with certain ad-hoc tasks from internal customers demanding data be delivered quickly, I often find myself using Perl.

Lessons learned

One of the biggest lessons I have learned is that I do not like to write programs when under extreme time pressure. In previous modules, the adrenalin that comes from knowing that assignments are due soon has been helpful to me in completing essays. But with programs, I have found that this does not apply to me because of the debugging aspect of writing code.

Conclusion

Looking back and comparing this module to my previous ones, I think that I may have put the most amount of time into this module. However, it does not feel like it because I find programming very enjoyable. Going forward, I will be writing more Java code in the workplace when time permits because I do not want to completely forget what I have learned.