SENG201 Project Report

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This report wants to briefly explain the structure, testing and the strengths and possible weaknesses of the application HeroesAndVillains.

This project focus has been to put into practice and master the basics of the Java programming language API and to develop an efficient way of collaborating on a project in a software development context.

The project contains over 50 Java classes (excluding JUnit test classes), doing so it was possible to create highly flexible and reusable code. The main classes present in this project are Character.java, Collectable.java and Building.java, these three abstract classes are the backbone of the project structure and they are also the ones that characterise and enforce an expected behaviour in the child classes. On top of these initial structure the classes such as Hero, Villain, Hospital, HealingItem, Armor and any other class that extends one of the three initial classes was created, in this part of the project the use of enumerations was fundamental to be able to store and distinguish objects of the classes that implement Character.java, Building.java or Collectable.java. To be able to store objects in the Shop and in the HeroesSquad object backPack property the class Inventory was implemented, where the main property inventory is a HashMap<Collectable, Integer> that stores the type of Collectable item and the quantity of it; many methods were then created to check if a collectable was in the inventory, to return a list of the inventory objects and quantities or to add and delete elements from the inventory. A similar concept was applied for the creation of the HealingWard class, used inside the Hospital to store the information of those Hero objects that are cured using HealingItem objects. In HealingWard the main property is healingWard a HashMap<Hero, Integer> which stores the hero under cure and the updated time from its full healing. The time update in the HealingWard property is achieved using a secondary thread and constantly decreasing the Integer stored for each Hero object.

The communication between the HeroesSquad object and the Building objects was possible by creating in each building a series of methods that used the HeroesSquad object setters and getters and modify this object depending on events. At a higher level the existence of the Engine class and helpers allowed to keep track of the HeroesSquad object, the right City and the Villain of each City, this was done using GameWindowManager in the GUI application as explained in the next paragraph.

Once the command line version of the game was created the GUI version was started. The class GameWindowManager deals with opening and giving visibility to the remaining windows in the right order and it is the responsible handling the HeroesSquad, Villains and list of City objects (world) data among the windows.

Junit5 has been used for testing, Junit extensions @BeforeEach, @AfterEach and @RepeatedTest(integer) where particularly useful for speeding up the tests creation and to make sure that tests were run independently from each other. Only after thoroughly testing the low level classes the higher level functionality, such as the creation of a City or of the HeroesSquad objects, was created and then tested. The method interact() present in objects that extend Buiding.java was useful for the creation of the command line version of the game and, once the game was finished it remained important to be able to test the functionality of each Building, HealingWard, Inventory, HeroesSquad, City and Villains objects. The test coverage ended up being SOMETHING%, the modularity of the code helped having high testable code, however, no Swing window has been tested, in the next project more attention will be put in the discovery of new techniques to test the GUI components.

The overall result of this assignment was satisfying as it was a significantly bigger project compared to what both students have ever done in the past, the collaboration has been intense and a significant effort has been done by both partners. Given deadlines have been often respected and the communication constant, the use of GitHub as a VC platform facilitated the code update.

This project has been incredibly time consuming as both parts were new to software development using Java, scaling techniques and testing, this project helped both parts to learn how to use API documentation and how to seek help anytime something does not work, this is probably the most valuable part of this experience.

Both partners agree that they contributed 50% each in the creation of this project, this includes testing, Javadoc, UML and general procedures such as the game design and the architecture implementation.

Lorenzo Fasano: My focus has been the creation of city, collectables and part of the engine packages and related Swing windows, testing and Javadoc. The most laborious processes were the creation of reliable low-level classes and the communication between the HeroesSquad object with each building.

Jay Hamilton: My focus has been the creation of characters, minigame and part of engine packages and related Swing windows, testing and Javadoc. The hardest part of this part of the project was to create the minigames functionality and integrate it in the game.

The project is on GitHub as a private repository, anybody reading this document is invited to request access to this repository to have proof of the what has been stated and to see the effort put into this highly rewarding project.

A total of over 400 hours has been spent on the realisation of the project and both students were satisfied with the difficulty of the project and with the learning curve over this period.