

## **Use Cases For A Parking System: Part Three**

ICT 4305: Object Oriented Methods and Programming

for

Master of Science

Information Technology

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### **Part Three: Reflection**

To begin, this assignment was a marathon of investigation. I found, however, that I very much enjoy the process of figuring out the interactions within the system and how they all relate to one another. Mapping out the different roles of the customer, the parking office, and all of the other “actors” helped me better understand how an object-oriented system mirrors real world processes that I see daily. While I am not entirely confident that my diagram perfectly captured all of the correct use cases, I did enjoy the challenge of working through the logic and connecting the dots as to how it all fit together.

Last year, I discovered a tool called Miro to help me with all of my diagrams for the Information Technology field. Originally when I found it, I was using it to create Database Design diagrams, but I found that this tool was also so helpful for UML. I had a very positive experience during this part of the assignment and found that the diagram helped me with the final pieces of the puzzle when looking at the Key Interactions within the Use Case. Identifying which actors connected to which interactions and then refining the layout until it made sense and all lines were appropriate allowed me to exercise my brain thoughtfully and gain more confidence in my overall result.

One challenge I encountered, however, was deciding how detailed to make the diagram. It was tempting to include every single possible interaction and every single probability, but I realized quickly from all of the examples that a good use case diagram was clear and concise.

Translating real world parking policies into system behaviors was also a challenge because I really had to dig down and deeply think about what was happening with each interaction. An example of this challenge presented itself when I was trying to figure out how to represent the compact car discounts, or the different fee structures for different parking lots.

Looking back, I wish I had a clearer picture of use case diagrams before starting this assignment, as I truly was in the trenches with figuring out how to represent every key interaction. I do think this exercise made it easier for me to really understand the material in the class, however, and I am very grateful to have done it because now I feel as if I can really tackle any system design. This assignment deepened my appreciation for system modeling and made me realize how thoughtful all of the systems around me truly are.

## References

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