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Subject: Assessment of Python

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We both had switched from Java to Python in the midst of TAHBL, so we got to see the pros and cons of both languages for this type of work. When working in Java, the libraries for JSON parsing worked fairly well- we didn't experience any setbacks due to this feature. However, the TCP/socket libraries native to Java are a lot trickier to use- they require more precise bit-reading than the 'socket' library in Python. Overall, the switch to Python streamlined our approach in many ways. The first being that we are both coming off of Python-heavy semesters; this allowed us to slip into the partnership and new-language easily. The second is Python's easy-to-use socket and JSON libraries. For assignment E, we had to essentially re-do assignment "C" in Python. The time it took for us to do all that, as well as add the new functionality, was significantly lower than the time it took for us to do these assignments in Java with our old partners.

As for the code walk we participated in, we got to see how easy it is to explain a python script to a room full of people who haven't seen it before. Java uses a lot more abstraction, and is therefore a lot harder to explain in a congruent way. In all fairness, our code walk was a little scuffed because we had just gotten to know each other and didn't realize we would be showing our code to anyone, so we expect our future code walks to be smoother than the last.

Overall, Python is a strong language that is easy to use, and we think that it allows us to focus on the actual program design and working together as a partnership rather than worrying about how to do small things.