Code Reading

Fall 2016 Cover Letter

Dr. Gurka

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Assignment: Playfair rewrite

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Time spent on assignment: 1 hr 30 mins

1. Questions to be answered:
   1. How much did re-reading in order to change names help your understanding, beyond what you already had at the time of the quiz?

It helped to re-read and look into making the code more readable. In the process of making the code more readable, I felt it was easier to understand the processes now than my first time reading the program. Giving the purposeful names helped me with understanding what a variable is supposed to do. This prevented me from spending too much time losing my way in the code when I see a variable that isn’t so self-explanatory.

* 1. Answer the same question for the comments you added.

Adding the comments on top of the method reminded me of the purpose of each specific method so I didn’t have to re-read the method several times to establish its purpose. The comments helped me understand the order and organization of the methods as well.

* 1. Given your changes, how much easier do you think it would be for the next reader to understand the algorithm thoroughly?

The initial comment before each method already lets the reader know what to expect. So, the reader has this guide to help them read the methods quickly. The process of the algorithm is clear as there is an order to the methods as labeled in the comments. The next reader will have a much easier time reading this code and understanding its algorithms.

* 1. Did you make any logic changes to correct an error? Explain.

I removed the check for even length of characters in the main method. I did this because the main method prints out a message if the length of the message isn’t even. However, when the encryptMessage method is called, the first line in that method calls the Divid2Pairs method. This method also checks for even length and when the length isn’t even, the method provides a remedy for the problem. The method appends an x and raises the length of the message by one to make it an even length.

Therefore, the check for even length should be removed from the main method. This check is redundant and only needs to be checked in the Divid2Pairs method.

* 1. Any other comments?

The code has become easier to read now compared to when I first started in class.