Manoj Vasa

Code Reading

9/7/2016

Report on Code Reading

The first program I read was written by Abdalla Elmedani. I took approximately 30 minutes to read and annotate the code thoroughly. This code was a basic implementation of a stack. It had functions to push, pop, and display elements as requested. Given the helpful comments and cleanly indented lines the code was very easy to read and understand. I didn't have a moment where I didn't understand the author's intentions with the program. The functions were easy to read so I just went from the top to the bottom of the code and annotated what I was thinking along the way. My strategy for reading the code was to just read the whole thing through and make note of what the code would be doing to sample data that I have created in my mind. It was interesting reading other people's code. It gave me insight into how to make my own code readable and it also helped me understand just how useful comments were. Whenever I had any small doubts about the code, they were clarified right away by the comments. I was honestly surprised with how quickly I was able to understand the code. This further emphasizes the importance of comments and clear indentation in code. After reading this code, I have decided to insert more helpful comments to any future programs I create. This will help me understanding my process of thinking as I'm typing and it will also help others follow my process of thought.

The second code I read was written by Quiet Nevyen. This code opened a file and increments the frequency of items in the file as they appeared and listed the frequencies in increasing order. I spent approximately one hour and thirty minutes in this code as I read and annotated the code. I had to retread the code multiple times, however. Since the code was so lacking in comments, I found it difficult to understand the code completely in my first read. I understood bit by bit as I read the code multiple times. My reading strategy for this code was different than my first reading. I spent some time just trying to understand what the methods of table were doing and how they contributed to the purpose of the code. After I understood what the table in the code was I went ahead and read the code from beginning to end while annotating multiple times. Overall, the code was written cleanly, but it was harder to understand the author's intentions when not being given any useful comments. The general purpose of the code wasn't even written in the top comments of the code. This helped me realize the importance of comments in code. Sometimes I may not need comments while typing my code, but upon later review, I might stumble across portions of the code that make no sense without comments. These comments would also help others read the code without being stuck trying to understand three lines of code for too long of a time. I'll be using more comments to help myself and others in reading code. Apart from the comments, the spacing of the code made it very easy to follow. There was no confusion of misplaced brackets. I learned just how important spacing is after reading this code. The right indentation and spacing can make a huge difference.