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CS 3210

Project Status Report

Current Progress

* Completed installation and setup of the language and compiler for Erlang. The interpreter is working on my machine, and modules can be compiled.
* Completed two “Get Started” introductions to the language to begin to understand functional programming languages and the syntax of Erlang.
* Successfully wrote Hello World program in Erlang.
* Began reading chapter 15: Functional Programming Languages in Sebesta.
* Conducted preliminary research on origin and history of the language.
* Began thinking about best way to communicate the important features of Erlang to the specified audience (upper division CS students)

Planned Next Steps

* Continue reading more formal documentation until the basic concepts are thoroughly understood.
* Write three more sophisticated programs of at least 20 lines. Planned programs: 1) parsing a text file and returning statistics such as letter count, word count, vowel count, 2) a simple black jack card game, finding polynomial roots using Newton’s Method.
* List strengths and weaknesses observed from writing the above programs.
* Record any interesting facts or observations from developing with this language.
* Begin planning the flow of the presentation.

Issues and Struggles

The primary issue I’m facing is comprehension of standard approaches to language use. I have never used a functional language before, and the learning curve is steep at this point. The syntax is becoming more familiar, but I still struggle to fundamentally understand the meaning behind the syntax.

Additionally, finding several hours at a time to really immerse myself in the language is a struggle. Much of the time available for this course is spent completing the stream of assignments. Due to balancing a full time job, wedding planning, and social obligations, I have taken special care to carve out dedicated time each weekend to devote to this exercise. Still I would like to have much more time to spend tinkering and learning this very interesting new topic.