PA 5 Reflection Essay

Overall, I thought this assignment was not very difficult. But I liked the assignment because the Trie is one of my favorite data structures, and it was nice to use it in order to make a spell checker/autocorrect. When I first learned about the Trie in data structures, we used it to make a work lookup but I wasn’t sure how to then use it to see if the words found were what someone would have meant if they misspelled the word. Know because of this assignment I know how and that’s pretty cool. I’m sure my solution for this assignment is probably very slow compared to a real-world solution, but I look forward to making it run faster as a summer project to improve my programming skills further.

The most difficult thing for myself in this assignment was getting the program to remember what the previous found corrections were. At first, I was going to use a list only and put that into a file, but I was having issues trying to figure out how the program would read the file. I eventually decided to use a csv format with column one being the misspelled word, and the second column using a quote char designating a list of the possible corrections. I would then use the first column as the key in a python dictionary, and then use the list as the value and have that be the list to go through when showing the possible matches. After I was able to conceptualize that solution it was fairly simple to implement in code.

Some advice I would give to another student trying to complete this assignment is to make sure you understand how to use a Trie first. Once you can get this down the rest of the assignment becomes relatively simple. Also I would recommend using python for anything that might be complex because it is significantly easier to code and there are neat tricks you can do with python that would not work in C++.

The only thing that I was unable to do, but was probably due to the time constraints I put on myself with procrastinating the assignment, was getting python to connect to a SQL lite server. I had some issues trying to install and run the server, and by the time I figured it out It was getting pretty late and I scrapped it.