

CS261 Data Structures
Assignment 0 / Part 1
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I'd like to begin by explaining my current position in both my personal and professional life, and then provide more information on my past and where I want to be/go in the foreseeable and distant future.

I currently reside in Miami, FL and a proud newlywed. My wife and I said I do in April of this year and celebrated the marriage with a trip to South Africa. I'm the oldest of four and my parents emigrated from Nicaragua in 1983 due to the civil war that tore the country apart. I was born and raised in Miami, FL.

I currently work in the banking industry, in particular I specialize in the fraud sector of the industry. I currently hold the title of Vice President, manager of the Corporate Financial Fraud division of the bank. I've been at my current employer for 3 years, and prior to my current employment held analyst and investigator positions at various banks in South Florida since 2003.

I did my undergrad at Florida International University majoring in Criminal Justice with a minor in Business Admin. I decided to pursue the computer science discipline after I was victim of a lay off in 2011. I realized not only is the banking business volatile but I needed to diversify my skills. I especially needed to enhance my skills if I was to keep up with the new trends in the fraud field, which at the time was moving to cyber space. I went back to FIU and enrolled in an intro programming course, which is where I learned Java and immediately fell in love. Almost instantaneously I realized not only is it something I love, but it's the future and the one true skill that will distinguish me in the workforce market. I knew it meant job security.

Unfortunately, FIU could not support my work schedule and as a result I explored for other schools that could support my work schedule with a flexible curriculum, this is how I came across OSU. This is my third term in the program and I love it. It was especially interesting since it involved a new language for me, C++, and in addition I was introduced to Linux as it's required when interacting with the FLIP server.

What will this degree do for me? I truly believe it will lead me to new opportunities and ultimately allow me to exit the bank industry. I've outgrown the industry, although I've ascended to a management position, I am ready to take on a new challenge and industry. I especially want to familiarize myself more with computer forensics. This interest only grew more after taking CS271, Assembly Language and working with MASM. With the growing threats in the world, from cyber war and financial malware, I want to take on the task of identifying the current threats and forecasting new ones. I hope in the near future the EECS department elects to offer a course involving computer forensics course for its E-campus students.

I look forward to learning plenty this semester and working with my fellow classmates in our assigned groups and only grow together in whatever our goals may be.

Thank you

Joaquin