**Game of Life FAQ**

1. **How to parse the data in the ".lif" files?**

Despite the different file extension, these are just text files and can be processed the same as a ".txt" file. If you've never used a Scanner to parse a data file, check the AP powerpoints. Note though that the file parsing code already exists in LifeModel; you call Life's parameterized constructor, supplying the name of the file, if you want to load a particular organism from disk.

1. **What's the syntax for X, where X is anything from previous years (e.g. 2D arrays)?**

Check the powerpoints, you lazy. If you don't know which powerpoint contains the information you seek, consult your teacher.

1. **Can I add private helper methods?**

Yes!

1. **Why doesn't my program do *anything* when I click the Run button?**

The GUI displays the current state of the simulation (organisms in the grid that are aliveNow). It then determines what should be aliveNext (in the next frame). Did you update aliveNow to reflect aliveNext, after the current generation is displayed?

1. **Why are my cells behaving strangely?**

Something could be wrong, maybe with the code? A couple debugging tips:

* Smaller grids are easier to debug. Change LifeView.SIZE to something like 4 (you didn't hard-code your loops to run to 60 did you?).
  + With a smaller grid, it's much easier to determine when rules are improperly applied (or the number of neighbors is not being computed properly).
    - Print the number of neighbors you counted for one of the cells to the console - does it match what you see on screen?
* You can slow the animation speed down. Look in LifeModel's run method; the value supplied to Timer's constructor is the refresh speed (in milliseconds).
  + The Timer object generates an event object every X milliseconds. When a 'listening' objects receives this event, it triggers an update.

1. **Is my program working *correctly*?**

I don't know, does work pretty much like [this](https://youtu.be/egHYmivrk9k)? Can you load the individual \*.lif files and have them work like they're suppose to (look up the different organisms on the internet)?