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CSCIE-97
10/9/14

Implementation Description

Any Implementation changes?

I made a very significant change in that I made the only 2 entry points to the API the two main classes, OfficeSpace and OfficeSpaceProvider. I have never written an API for such an open ended program (or so it seemed so at first). When I first made my class diagram I thought the design would be very simple and straight forward as there was very little functionality in the program (mostly just data structure and validation). After I started to Implement, I realized that the way I was doing it gave me very little control and security in the program. Having to control so many entry points presented a nightmare for basic security, especially since it seems like this program would be destined to be deployed on a network.

Did the design document make the implementation easier?

The design document did make the implementation much more deliberate on my part, in a good way. I am not a very experienced coder, I've been at it for about 12 months now, so my first instant is still that of hacker (code first, debug second and keep the design in my head/work out the details as I go along) so I found that having the design document saved me a lot of time in implementing the basic structure of the classes. Where I would normally be rummaging through my head and rereading code to see what was still missing, I was able to keep my eyes on the design document and stick to the structure.

How could the design have been better, clearer or make the implementation easier?

If I had spent more time on the intricacies of the design I feel like I would have saved myself a lot of time in the implementation. I failed to recognize the importance of entry points in my design and as a result, I came up with something that I found to be rather vanilla, it helped me in setting up the structure of the classes, but not in the specifics of how the classes interact with each other. Also in my implementation I mostly failed to think about error handling which turned out to be one of the most important pieces of my implementation. I think for Assignment 3 I am going to try and spend about twice as long on the design which I think can save me a number of hours on the implementation

did the design review help improve your design?

Unfortunatly my partner was no responsive to my request for a design review, I email Professor Giseke, but by the time I got him email saying he would personally review my design, it was too late. Missing out on the peer design review did mean I missed out on some critical feed back, but I felt that after putting the project down for a few days in between design and implementation and just passively thinking about it in the meantime definitely led to me having a totally different perspective on the design when I sat back down to start coding it.

One thing I noticed, and I am pretty sure is a flaw in my design which I'm not sure how to avoid is that a good number of my classes, nearly half, are there for the sole purpose of data storage and validation. A passage in the UML Distilled book told me that this was a sign that I should rethink my design, but, given the requirements and by reading through the discussions on the website, I did not see another way around this