

15-214 HW5C
Experience Report

Data Plugin

There are two things I like about the DataPlugin:

1. It is very simple to implement, because there is essentially one method, `getData`.
2. The `getFilePathMessage` method effectively instructs people how to import local files to avoid mistakes.

There are three things I don't like about the DataPlugin:

1. The `requiresFilePath` method is unnecessary. It can be replaced with a Null option for the `filePath` parameter.
2. The argument names are inconsistent and misleading. In DataPlugin the framework, the first argument is called `filePath`, but in the sample plugin `CsvFilePlugin` the same argument is called `fileName`. I had to go through the sample plugin's implementation to realize that `fileName` is the proper name for the argument.
3. The definition/documentation for `userParameters` is unclear. Even after implementing two DataPlugins, I am not certain what it really does because in both cases I can just return a new List of Strings.