

Assignment 02 - Program Documentation (Due: Thursday September 25, 2008) Feedback

First of all, I think it necessary to clarify the perceived audience for this documentation. Are the components to be documented with a "client perspective" only? By this I mean, are they to be documented just like the classes in the Java Standard Library, so that clients can become aware of them and use them effectively? Or are these components to be documented with our imagined coworkers and fellow developers in mind? If the latter perspective is to be undertaken, then that means the documentation needs to address how the components represent their objects and perform their methods.

I think both of these separate emphases deserve our attention, but that the assignment specification somewhat indicates the latter emphasis.

As I understand the situation imagined in the assignment specification, I would prioritize the work as follows. First priority is to document the `Plural` class and its underlying necessary components (that would be the `List` class). Second priority would be to document the `PluralTrainer` application since it's usefulness in building dictionaries increases the applicability of the component and makes it's potential reuse more likely. And the potential for reuse is the main reason why this documentation task is being undertaken (at least that's the hypothetical propose in the assignment specification). Lastly, the `TestPlural` and `TestPluralInteractive` applications have the lowest priority. They have value in illustrating how the `Plural` component may be used, and they have some minimal value in testing, but their potential for valuable reuse is limited.

The file `PMJ.doc` expresses my feedback to you on the work submitted. I've inserted MS Word comments in this file to draw your attention to things I think are in some way significant. Normally the first comment in the file will state the letter grade I have assigned.

In addition to the letter grade I've also specified a ranking of the form (*i* of **8**); 8 for the eight students in the class. The value of *i* indicates my ranking of your work relative to the whole class. So for example, **1 of 8** means that I regarded your work as the best submitted, and **8 of 8** means that I ranked it the lowest. Rankings such as **3.5 of 8** serve to indicate that I regarded your work and that of another student as essentially equivalent in quality and so I averaged the ranking (**3 of 8**, and **4 of 8** average to 3.5 of 8 for each). Keep in mind that the rankings are meant only to provide an alternate assessment of my opinion. Rankings such as **7 of 8** and **8 of 8** do not indicate deficient work; it is quite possible, and in fact should be quite normal for such rankings to be paired with letter grades of B and higher. Likewise, a ranking of **1 of 8** does not necessarily mean that it will be paired with a letter grade of A; it just means it was the highest quality work submitted.

P.M.J. - October 6, 2008