

Assignment 03 - Program Refinement (To Do On Thursday October 9, 2008) and (Due: Thursday October 16, 2008)

This assignment is a further follow-up to the Java Program Component for Automatic Singular/Plural Differentiation assignment and to Assignment 2 (the production of documentation for a prototype I created). The work submitted by each pair (for the first part) and then by each student (for the documentation part) shows interesting strengths and weaknesses. To assist everyone in recognizing these and in an attempt to exploit the perceived strengths I propose the following assignment.

I would like the class to meet, beginning at 7:15 PM in STT412, and undertake a "team meeting" for the purpose of developing a refined version of the software component. Do not wait for me to arrive to begin this meeting; as was the case last week, I will be late and have an estimated time of arrival of 7:45 PM.

The name, Java Program Component for Automatic Singular/Plural Differentiation, is to be used as the official title for this component and this project. (An actual identifier that somehow expresses this title needs to be agreed upon; the name, `Plural`, I used is just not adequate in my opinion.) The point of this assignment is to take the best of what all of you have done, and to now develop a single improved manifestation of this component.

It seemed to me that Jason and Shahana's prototype submission presented the clearest high-level vision of the component I imagined. Unfortunately Jason will not be present for class on Oct 9<sup>th</sup>, and so I suggest that Shahana then assume the role of secretary for this endeavor. I would like a brief oral summary of what has been accomplished in my absence and then a concise written report of the teams accomplishments afterwards.

It is my opinion that the prototype work submitted by Michael Paulukonis and Sai Kishore shows the most promising design; their use of an interface for their class in particular seems promising. I wish to encourage them to again share their design perspective with the team as a means to obtaining appropriate refinements. This pair also had the most thought out test plan and this too should be shared, refined, and then become the plan for this project. They then will function as the lead designers for this activity, with "testing to their design specification" as the expectation.

The prototype work of Kevin and Hepsiba, along with that of Michael Pedley and Suhasini, seemed to focus primarily on implementation issues. Many alternatives exist here and it might even be the case that implementation concerns may affect design. Anyway, I see these four as a "subteam" of implementers to bring the agreed upon design to fruition. I strongly encourage one of them to step forward to become the leader of this effort; not the one who does all the work, but rather the one who oversees its accomplishment while also providing some contribution.

My prototype work, as simple (even simplistic) as it is, serves to remind us to try and make a component that is very general and simple at the same time.

So when I arrive I expect a brief oral report to get me up to date, and then we will then continue the meeting for a period of time, hopefully agreeing upon specific individual assignments and a course of action.

Good luck,

P.M.J.