CISC106 Fall 2011 Project 1

Oct 23

Team rosters due. Team assignments due for all test scripts and functions. Team must submit one email (see preceise email instructions below) to both professor and TA by 11:59 p.m.

Oct 28

Testing code due for Part I functions. Write this carefully, we will test it on our own code.

Nov 7

Complete Project 1 due midnight.

Project Overview

As discussed in class, we are going to write a bear simulator in teams. The basic program is already designed, and the functions enumerated, so that you will be given certain tests and functions to write over the next week.

Once the functions meet specifications, they will be assembled and together they will simulate a bear!

Simulations are an important use of computers. Simulations can save money and lives, and can simulate conditions that might never happen in the real world. This simulation is extremely simple, but it demonstrates how simple rules can be followed to produce "behavior" over time. Can you see how to make this simulation more realistic? How would you add other bears? Caves for hibernating? Energy and health levels? Hunters? Campers with food? More realistic movement?

Why are we in teams?

Working in teams is a common way to produce large coding projects in the real world. In particular, it is very hard to write good testing software for your own code, because you are likely to make the same assumptions and mistakes when writing the test that you do when writing the code. Teams give perspective, a chance to learn from others, and almost always produce a better product than people working alone.[1]

How will we be graded?

You will be part of a coding team. Two thirds of your project grade will be based on the team project grade. The team grade will be apportioned among team members by the team, using a blind rating system where each team member rates the contributions of their peers.[2]

The final third will be based on project questions given in a quiz or exam.

Questions

Please be sure to check the online FAQ before you send a question to the TA or your professor.

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[1]If you think that you can actually write better code by yourself, you are probably mistaken. But even if it is true for now, it is still important to learn to work in teams.

[2]The Professor reserves the right to override team evaluations if s/he doesn't think they accurately represent contributions.

Email

Any email about the project to the professor or your TA must include [106 PROJECT *yourteamname*] in the subject line, including the square brackets. Emails without this may be ignored and/or discarded[3].

What must be done before Oct 23?

1. Form a team of 2-3 people (no larger or smaller teams). The professor reserves the right to add to, subtract from, and re-organize teams, but prefers not to do so.

   NOTE: *You* form teams, but only the professor can break a team apart. Individuals are *not* allowed to leave a team without the professor's permission. Teams are *not* empowered to "vote people off". Form carefully - breaking up is hard, and nobody wins.

2. Assign functions and test scripts evenly among team members.

3. Give roster AND assignments to professor in a single email.

Communication

Work on the project within your team only. Seek help and explanations from your team members, not from members of other teams. In particular, DO NOT communicate with another team or outside person about how they wrote a particular function or test. Feel free to send your code or thoughts to other members of your team, but not outside the team. Violations of this policy will be considered academic dishonesty (see the class web page).

All team-related emails[4] to another member of the team must be cc'ed to every team member. This means that everyone will need to be especially careful when choosing their words to comment on someone else's code, timeliness, new shoes, etc.

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[3]Adding this information to your subject line allows us to categorize emails automatically. Help us help you!
[4]This rule applies to any written words, including text messaging, paper, etc.