

CMSI 186

PROGRAMMING LABORATORY

Spring 2008

“Bonus” Program: Version 2

It has been said that “software is never completed, only abandoned.” As a final [optional] exercise for the semester, you have an opportunity to live this saying firsthand.

Code to Write

Choose one of the programming assignments from this semester, and submit a “version 2” of that assignment. This new version will be graded as usual, and, if its grade is higher than your original “version 1,” that grade will replace the first one that you got for that assignment.

What should go into “version 2?” First and foremost, if your original version had bugs, these bugs must be fixed. Once erroneous behavior has been corrected, other possible improvements include:

- Internal source code improvements such as better structure/design, indentation/spacing, names, and comments. In particular, structural improvements such as elimination of redundant code and refactoring for better reusability are highly encouraged.
- New or improved features, whether or not these were mentioned/suggested in the original description of the assignment.
- Better documentation — improved help and error messages, a user’s manual, JavaDoc API pages, UML diagrams, etc.

Specific Lab Report Content

Yes, you should still submit a lab report for your version 2. However, instead of rehashing all of the content from the previous lab report, this one should emphasize the changes (which are presumably improvements) made to the new version. Thus, Sections I, III, and V should pertain only to what was changed, improved, or added from the original submission. Section IV remains as before, since after all, even with version 2, there may still be known bugs, possible feature enhancements, and implementation improvements for the program. There should definitely be no regressions (i.e., new bugs that weren’t there before).

Your new lab report will be re-graded, just as with your new program. Thus, make sure to maintain the same (or better) quality in your “version 2” lab report or else your new code will be for naught.

This is Optional!

Your version 2 is due at the same time as Program 7, and is most definitely optional. Do *not* sacrifice the quality of Program 7 just to turn in the new version — if you think that you’ve done pretty well for the semester (and you should already have a good idea of this, since you already know approximately 6/7ths of your grade), then you’re better off turning in a high-quality Program 7 than leaving it half-baked for an uncertain improvement in the grade from a previous assignment.

So choose wisely, and manage your time well...