

CS490 Assignment 1

Weekly Log

Date assigned: Tuesday, August 31, 2004

Date due: Every Tuesday up till December 6, 2004

Points: 5 points every week for weekly log, 25 points for final notebook

When working on a large project it is vital that you keep a lab notebook. You use this notebook to record not only your progress throughout the lifecycle of the project, but also ideas that you might have related to the project, any algorithms that you might use in your project, and references to any readings that might be useful. The notebook is also useful for writing down exactly what you were doing the moment you stopped during a session so that you can easily pick up where you left off next time. This can save you the time you would have spent figuring out exactly what you were doing and what point you had got to.

You can create this notebook in any form that you like. You could keep an electronic notebook using a simple text editor. Another useful format is an online blog as this travels around with you. It also automatically places in the dates and times, which are important parts of a lab notebook. You may prefer a hard copy notebook. If you do choose this method then you should choose a notebook that has non-removable pages.

Whatever form you pick, you must submit the complete notebook at the end of the semester. Don't worry! I will get the notebook back to you so that you can continue using it next spring.

Your notebook should contain the following:

- Any notes about the project
- Draft of designs or algorithms
- Pseudocode
- Names of reference books or websites
- Any other information about your project that you want to scribble down

Additionally, you will need to submit an electronic weekly log to me every Tuesday at the beginning of class. The format of the weekly log is:

- Week dates: state the start and end dates for that week
- Week objectives: what were the objectives that you planned to accomplish that week, what was your progress on each of the objectives, and highlight the objectives that were met
- Additional work completed: describe any additional project work that you started on or completed
- Plans for the following week
- Impressions of your week

The weekly log should be stored in your notebook. If you keep a real notebook then you can staple hard copies of the weekly logs into it.

Grading

When grading the weekly log I will look for:

- The five elements listed above
- Well thought out impressions and plans
- Good and clear writing style

When you submit the notebook at the end of the semester, you will get the full grade if it shows that you have used it regularly. It will not be graded on neatness, style, spelling or content.