CMSI 182
INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER SCIENCE
Fall 2009

Assignment 0915

While the main, credit portion of this assignment is due on September 15, accomplishing the intermediate tasks by the given dates will allow you to get the most out of these first few weeks (and keep you from cramming near the deadline!).

Not for Submission

By September 8

1. Re-read the "Voices in Computing" article given out on the first day of class.

2. Read Chapter 0 of the textbook.

3. Read the "History of computer science" article in Wikipedia, as well as one or more related articles that are linked to it. Look at the articles' history to see if you can spot likely instances of vandalism.

4. Think about the "Intro 8" described in the "for submission" section to the right: specifically, think about how you would give someone step-by-step instructions on how to do one or more of them.

By September 10

5. Look up and learn about the "Towers of Hanoi" game/puzzle.

6. Look up and learn about the "Monty Hall paradox" (it's mentioned near the beginning of the recent film *21*).

7. Have a draft of the "for submission" exercise portion of this assignment ready — having one will save you some time for a planned class activity on that day.

For Submission

Submit the following items on hardcopy by the beginning of class on September 15. As much as possible, bring a draft of the exercise portion to class on September 10.

Exercise: The "Intro 8"

As precisely as possible, in a manner that will allow you to do things "blindly," write up instructions for three of the "Intro 8" tasks (your choice).

In cases where a particular task has many variations, state the specific variation that you're writing up (e.g., Are you deciding whether someone is qualified for something? Are you detecting an ace high? Are you detecting blackjack?)

Reflection

Once you have finished the exercise, answer the following reflection questions:

1. How do the "Towers of Hanoi" and "Monty Hall" puzzles/games relate to what the textbook discusses in Chapter 0?

2. This early in the course, has your perception of what computer science is changed from the beginning of the course? If so, how has it changed?

3. Is there anything that does not make sense to you so far? If so, what can be done to clear things up for you?