

DSV SU/KTH  
13-sep-2010/FK

## id1006 Java Programming

### Assignment 4 - Essay

It is recommended that you submit this work no later than Tuesday, 12 October 2010. Later submissions will still be accepted, but may take a considerable longer time to grade.

This assignment is part of the individual student examination on the course id1006 Java Programming. The assignment is to be done by an individual student. When the assignment has been approved, it corresponds to 2/5th credit of the 7.5 credits (hp) given for the completed course.

#### HOW TO SUBMIT THE COMPLETED ASSIGNMENT

The completed work is delivered electronically in the form of an email addressed to

`java.assignments@fc.dsv.su.se`

or if that is not practical, send email to

`fki@kth.se`

Send one email per assignment. Since there are three programming tasks and one essay in this course, a student is expected to submit a total of four emails.

The subject of the email must contain the text 'Assignment xxx' or 'Assignment yyy' or 'Essay' etc.

The body of the email must contain the submitting student's name and personal identification number (Sv. 'personnummer'). The sender id on the email is NOT sufficient identification.

The body of the email must also contain all additional information needed to identify the submitted work and the context in which it is being submitted. For example, a re-submission.

Submitted files (e.g. program sources) should be adjoined to the email as one or more attachments.

Source code is to be submitted as PLAIN TEXT, ie files that can be compiled by the Java standard development kit (javac). All files necessary to build the program or programs must be submitted together.

Typeset documents (e.g. Ms Word, Open Office, LaTeX etc) MUST be submitted in PDF, the Portable Document Format by Adobe. This is currently the optimal way to guarantee cross-platform readability of electronic documents.

Submitted work is expected to be carefully prepared, annotated, commented and above all original. Where it is not, quotes, citations, and references are to be CLEARLY indicated. Images, graphics and other multimedia products can only be incorporated into the submitted work with the permission of the copyright holder, and the permission must be expressed in the submitted work.

Submitted work will be tested for originality.

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In this assignment you are to write an essay about a specialized topic related to the Java Programming Language.

\*\*\* NOTE \*\*\*

All students must have their selected topic confirmed.  
Please contact Fredrik Kilander in First Class  
or via email to fki@kth.se.

\*\*\* NOTE \*\*\*

The reason for confirming the topic, is that experience has shown that topics otherwise easily gets too general. The small and compact format of a the essay, requires a specialized topic.

The format of the essay should be that of an extended abstract or short paper, ie 2-3 pages or approximately 2000 words. All or some of the the following structural elements are recommended, but not required:

- the author's name and affiliation (university, department, course)
- abstract (you write this when the other text is done)
- introduction: (your selected topic; the reasons why the topic is interesting; what you are going to argue about it; how the rest of the paper is structured)
- background: (a brief history of issues, events or discoveries relating to the topic, with references to literature or other sources; concepts, terms, formalisms, definitions ... ie anything the reader need to know to understand the rest).
- argument: (your message to the reader, based or using the elements presented in the background; evidence for and against; evaluation of the evidence; your arguments; current issues, difficulties, and their possible resolutions).
- conclusions: (if there are any, based only on the background and argument)
- summary: (a brief summary of the introduction, background, argument and conclusions)

- references: (web references MUST be dated and point to the document, not the site; you should NOT cite Wikipedia, go instead to the sources cited by Wikipedia; for graphics and images you do not produce yourself you MUST have the permission of the copyright holder and you MUST state in your paper that you have this permission; try to find at least one book, journal or recognised periodical for published work)
- originality: In the essay, your work must be clearly and obviously distinguishable from the work of others authors (including your fellow students).

You may quote other authors, by showing very very visibly, which is quoted text and what is your text. The following is an accepted way of including a piece of quoted text. In [1] M. Plonsky says:

"Three or four quotes in a 10 page  
paper is about the upper limit."

Unfortunately, inexperienced authors tend to think that a citation reference can be used to protect them from the mistake of copying arbitrary long sentences or even complete paragraphs of text, and therefore would write that three or four quotes in a 10 page paper is about the upper limit.[1] That is NOT acceptable.

Likewise, some authors prefer to change the wording of someone else's argumentation, and say that 30% or a quarter quotes in a full paper is close to the maximum limit, but this is usually recognisable as well, and is not accepted over longer pieces of text. The ideas still belong to the original author.

For formatting instructions not specified here, please consult these sources:

<http://www.acm.org/sigs/pubs/proceed/template.html>

<http://www.acm.org/sigs/pubs/proceed/sigproc-sp.pdf>

[1] Plonsky, M., "Psychology with style A hypertext writing guide", 2007, <http://www.uwsp.edu/PSYCH/apa4b.htm>, accessed 14-sep-2010.

Good luck!