

Memo

Date: 4/4/2016
To: Traci Gardner
From: Student's Name
Subject: Proposal for Genre Analysis for Code

Introduction

As a computer scientist code is at the heart of almost everything I do. It runs every piece of electronic hardware you own. Writing good code is therefore an integral part of the profession, or at the very least something you should strive to do as a computer scientist. Good code is elusive though, and your code may require myriad different things to be thought of as "good". At the moment I write code primarily for school projects and will soon have to do so for my job. As such I would like to study this idea in an effort to improve my code, and perhaps to serve as a guide for others in the future.

Areas of Study

The primary goal of this project is to in some fashion determine what makes good code, or at the very least to isolate a few things which are integral in any code. There is both a technical and interpersonal aspect to this. Your work must be well made both for the device it runs itself, as well as for anyone else who may be looking at your work any number of years in the future. As such the primary area of study will be to determine what is accepted as proper practices as well as what may be important to different computer scientists.

Methods of Research

First and foremost I will be looking at samples of code, both those thought to be "good" and "bad". As well I will be looking into what practices are accepted and expected for coding. I will also attempt to isolate where and when they are expected, such as where and when to use various casing practices for variables in your program. Finally as a student at Virginia Tech I have access to professors who teach this information on a regular basis, and would be ideal interview candidates.

Timetable

Task	Date								
	4/5	4/6	4/7	4/8	4/9	4/10	4/11	4/12	4/13
Ask for Interviews									
Collect Samples									
Read Current Information									
	4/14	4/15	4/16	4/17	4/18	4/19	4/20	4/21	4/22
Interview									
Collate Information									
Begin Draft									
	4/23	4/24	4/25	4/26	4/27	4/28	4/29	4/30	5/1
Edit Draft									
Finish Draft									
Begin Revising									
	5/2	5/3	5/4	5/5	5/6	5/7	5/8	5/9	
Revise Draft									
Finish and Turn In Final Copy									

Qualifications

As a computer science student I have not only the information necessary for the study within easy access, but I also have experience with code both good and bad. I therefore should be able to isolate some of what makes good and bad code. I also believe that I should be able to stay fairly neutral on what can be a hotly debated topic, or at least attempt to figure out what both sides agree on.

Request for Approval

If this proposal sounds viable to you I would like to begin work on it as soon as possible in an effort to create a write-up that is both as complete as possible in addition to being well written. As well if you have any suggestions both for possible research opportunities or any ideas I may have missed in this proposal feel free to contact me by email at someone@vt.edu.