

Assignment 3

CSC 3461 3.0 User Interfaces, Winter 2008

Faculty of Science and Engineering

York University

Prepared By: M Baljko

Due: Friday, Monday 7 April 2008, electronic submission by 11:59pm.

Submission up to Monday 14 April 2008 11:59pm without penalty.

Format: Individual (not groups)

Improvement to KappaCheck

In class, we participated in a design exercise concerning the interface of KappaCheck, a software application that derives the *kappa statistic* between pairs of students. The kappa statistic tells us the likelihood that the observed level of similarity is due to chance (above 10%, below 5%, below 1%, below 0.1% and below 0.01%). A copy of the design exercise can be found on the course website.

A version of the software is being provided, as well as one set of sample data.

The Assignment

1. Your first task is to compile and run the software. It will not take long to see that interface has several flaws.
2. Your second task is to enumerate five ways in which the interface can be improved. Describe in one or two sentences each idea for improvement in a written report (see below).
3. Your third task is to implement at least one interface improvement. Provide a rationale for your choice of improvement (one paragraph, also to be included in the aforementioned report). This rationale is worth 10% of the assignment mark.
4. The implementation of the improvement should obey the principles of MVC. You may modify the source code as needed. If you add methods to any classes, document them with element comments (i.e., comments that begin with `/**` and finish with `*/`) that identify the parameters and return. Include your initials in the comment, for example:

```
[MB: this method added to original class definition]
```

Indicate any other changes with in-line comments that contain your initials, following the above template. If you decide to implement any additional classes, document them so as to identify yourself as the author. The goal is that all of your modifications will be identifiable using the `grep` command.

5. The implementation is worth 80% of the assignment mark. Criteria include elegance of design, correctness, and adherence to MVC and encapsulation.
6. Submit (electronically) all of the files so that application compiles and runs solely on the basis of the submitted files.
7. The report should be maximum 1 page long (the minimum allowable font size is 11pt, the minimum margins are 0.5 inch). Name this report `cseXXXXX-report.pdf` or `csXXXXXX-report.pdf` (as the case may be). PDF is preferred, although alternative formats such as `.doc` are acceptable if pdf is unavailable. This component is worth 10% of the assignment mark. Include your name and student number in the report.

It is a violation of Academic Honesty to represent another persons ideas, writing or other intellectual property as one's own.

To Submit Electronically: Files may be submitted from your Prism lab account, using the `submit` command. For documentation, see `man submit`.

Use `submit 3461 a3 <file1> <file2>`