Lab Submission Instructions

Individual lab handouts will contain explicit instructions, but we will generally submit weekly lab code in one or more files with the .java extension. Immediately after assignment deadlines, the course TAs will download your lab code to test, mark, and pass on to the instructors. For this reason it is important to follow the submission instructions carefully or else your assignment may not be graded!

1 Drop-off Folders

Each lab section has its own drop-off folder where weekly assignments will be submitted. The drop-off folders are write-only folders on a CS department server. This means that the drop-off folders are:

- accessible from any Mac in a CS lab, and
- restricted so that you cannot see or overwrite existing files (even your own).

This has two implications. Since the folders are actually stored on a CS department server, we need to mount the folders locally so we can access them. And since we cannot overwrite existing files, we must select a new name for our lab folder if we want to resubmit an assignment. Both of these are detailed below.

1.1 Mounting Drop-off Folders

There are several steps to mount the drop-off folders, but once you complete the process once, you can drag the Volume icon into the right side of the Dock and it will always be accessible.

1. Open up Finder.

2. In the desktop toolbar at the top of the screen, select the “Go” menu and then the “Connect to Server”. (The Finder keyboard shortcut is “Cmd-k”)

3. In the pop-up window, enter “fuji” into the text box for “Server Address:” (“fuji” is the name of the CS department file server for its Mac computers. It is also a type of apple.)

4. Press the “Connect” button.

5. A new window will pop up with several entries, including “Courses”. (These are all the names of storage locations (Volumes) that you can connect to over the network (mount)).

6. Please highlight the “Courses” volume and select OK.

At this point, a new Finder window will appear that lists folders for many of the courses offered this semester. You may choose to drag the Volume icon at the top of the Finder window to the right side of the Dock (anywhere on the right side of the faint vertical bar). This will create an icon that you can click to easily remount the Courses volume.

When you turn in lab assignments, you will drag and drop your project folder into the appropriate section folder within the Courses/cs136/ directory. These folders are write-only which means you cannot see inside them. You can, however, drag and drop files into these folders, and it will store a copy of your folder.
1.2 Naming Labs

There are many students and few TAs/instructors. As instructors, we want to spend all of our time reading your labs and giving you helpful feedback, not trying to figure out which files belong to which student. To improve the lives of everyone involved, we will be strictly enforcing a lab naming policy. When you are ready to submit your lab files, please put all of your work into a folder named:

<unix>-<lab>

For example, if Williams College President Adam Falk (aff1) was submitting the files \{Hello.java, CoinStrip.java\} as part of his CS136 Lab 1, he would create a folder that contains those files:

aff1-lab1/
Hello.java
CoinStrip.java

He would then drag the folder aff-lab1 into his section’s drop-off folder.

1.3 Resubmitting Labs

We should be careful when submitting our labs and only submit files when we are done. However, we always think of new ways to improve our code, and we all make mistakes. If you need to resubmit, please create a new folder with your lab files and append the submission number to your lab. To be clear: your folder name must change, but you should not need to change your file names.

The first resubmission would look like this:

aff1-lab1-1/
Hello.java
CoinStrip.java

To resubmit again,

aff1-lab1-2/
Hello.java
CoinStrip.java

and so on...

Unless you have been granted an extension, the version most recently submitted before the lab deadline is the one that we will grade.

2 Working From Home

We encourage everyone to work on their own machines or on Williams machines outside the lab (Please check out the “links” section of the course webpage for instructions on how to set up your own laptop!). In the past, students have been successful in submitting work from personal laptops. However, we have thoroughly tested submissions using the steps above from the CS lab machines. If you run into any troubles inside the lab, the TAs and instructors are available to help.