

The Home Stretch

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Home Stretch

27.1

The Plan

- ❖ Review of the Design
- ❖ The Last 10%
- ❖ Freezing the Project
- ❖ Ensuring Success
- ❖ Cutting your losses
- ❖ Testing
- ❖ Documentation
- ❖ Enhancements

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Review of the Design

- ❖ Late for Serious Changes
 - ❑ May be some course correction possible.
- ❖ Often: Simplification rather than enhancement
 - ❑ Shed some frills.
 - ❑ Narrow down some of the goals.
- ❖ When Adding Things: Must be *Orthogonal!*
 - ❑ Orthogonal: Will *not* adversely affect other parts.
 - ❑ Don't risk project for that "just one more".

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The Last 10%

- ❖ You may think you're almost done
- ❖ Common wisdom is:
*The last 10% of a project takes up
90% of the time.*
- ❖ Allow for the unexpected
- ❖ Prevent serious problems by testing as you go
- ❖ Don't put off fixing a problem to go to another enhancement

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Freezing the Project

- ❖ *Earlier* rather than later, *quit adding features*
- ❖ Make sure what you have is done right
- ❖ Allow for the unexpected
- ❖ Resist the *lure of enhancements*
- ❖ Spend any extra time to make product more professional

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Ensuring Success

- ❖ *Always* have a working project
 - ❑ After some natural increment (with everything so far working) *save a complete copy (project)*.
 - ❑ Think of it as a simpler version.
 - ❑ Don't lose or change this copy.
- ❖ Start the next version
 - ❑ After significant progress, *repeat* this process.
- ❖ Too often, a formerly working project is “destroyed” by improvements
 - ❑ It may never work again.
 - ❑ You must have a previous version to *fall back on*.

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Cutting your Losses

- ❖ Sometimes: Nothing Seems to Work
- ❖ *Before it's too late:*
 - ❑ Severely *Prune* your goals.
 - ❑ Get help from instructors for this.

A Simple Working Project
ALWAYS RATES HIGHER
than a Fancy Non-Working Project

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Testing

- “Testing can prove the presence of bugs, but not the absence of bugs.”*
- ❖ Games: different standard from most software
 - ❑ Bugs sometimes become features.
- ❖ Errors can be costly, however
 - ❑ When demo-ing for your grade!
 - ❑ When showing off for your date.
- ❖ Test Plan
- ❖ Testing by a naïve user

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Documentation

- ❖ Javadocs provide imbedded documentation
- ❖ **Traditional**
 - ❑ User manual.
 - ❑ Technical/Program Logic Manual (for heirs).
- ❖ **On-line documentation**
- ❖ **Legal / for Grade**
 - ❑ Make clear *who* did *what* work and *when*.

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Enhancements

- ❖ ***If* you have time ...**
 - ❑ Make sure you have polished main parts.
 - ❑ Make sure you do not risk previous work.
- ❖ **Enhancements can be a lot of fun**
 - ❑ They might add that extra sparkle.
- ❖ **The pressure is off**
 - ❑ Little cost: if it doesn't work, *back it out*

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