

Reading Response 4

Due IN CLASS Thursday, 24 April

Handout R4
CSCI 334: Spring, 2008
17 April

Readings

Please read and write a short response to the following papers. Hand in the response *in class* on the due date. Responses need not be longer than one-half to three-quarters of a page. Your response should address the general questions asked below, as well as anything you found particularly interesting in the articles.

1. (15 points) Java

Read the excerpts from “The Java Language Environment” by James Gosling and Henry McGilton. (You can find a copy online on the readings page).

Unlike our other papers, this one at times reads more like marketing material than commentary on a programming language. Try to look beyond the hype to the underlying ideas. In particular, the authors discuss a number of new design criteria and features for Java that our other readings did not touch on. What are these, and why were they not present for other languages?

Chapter 1 contains most of the important ideas and should give you a good feel for Java’s goals. (I have also included some of the later chapters to fill in some details, if anything piques your interest.)