Partners In CSE 332

Why Partner Projects?

In CSE 332, **all three projects** are partner projects. There are several reasons for this:

- **Group Work Is A Skill.** Working on a project (programming or not) can add new difficulties. For better or worse, in real life, you will have to work with other people on codebases. As with all skills, the only way to get better at group work is to practice. This is important enough that we offer CSE 332 as an opportunity.

- **The Projects Are Time Consuming.** Because we cover a large amount of material in CSE 332 in such a short time, the projects are *jam packed*. The projects are written *assuming students will be working in pairs*. In other words, we expect the projects to take approximately twice as long if you work by yourself.

- **Students Have Different Backgrounds.** One of the major advantages of group work is that you and your partner usually have different strengths and weaknesses. You and your partner can exchange your strengths, and hopefully, both of you come out of the project stronger. You and your partner can match your weaknesses (e.g., a second set of eyes allows you to debug significantly more quickly).

Choosing A Partner

You may find it easiest (but we will not require) that you work with the same partner for all three projects. You may choose your own partner or we can assign you one from the partners pool. We do not expect anyone to try to work alone except in exceptional circumstances.

- **Choose Your Own Partner.** If you choose this option, you and your partner-to-be should both select each other. Then, your group will be automatically created.

- **Partners Pool.** If you choose this option, you will need to fill out a second survey with demographic information, work habits, and preferences. (Your answers will be strictly confidential.) Then, we will use a program to create partnerships matching you as best as possible.

- **Petition To Work Alone.** If you choose this option, you must send an email to the instructor explaining why you should be allowed to work alone. You may also be asked to meet in person. We expect to grant *very few* petitions, so you should only attempt this option if you have a *very very good reason*.

Signing Up For A Partner

When each project is posted, to indicate which option you're choosing EVERYONE must go to:

<div align="center">

https://grinch.cs.washington.edu/partners

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You **must** do this by **the time requested for that project**. If you do not fill out the form by the deadline, you will be automatically added to the partners pool. If you are joining the partners pool then you will also need to fill out the second survey (found here: https://grinch.cs.washington.edu/groups) by the deadline.

Pair Programming

We recommend that you and your partner attempt *Pair Programming*. *Pair Programming* is a technique in which you and your partner both program at the same computer. One of you is the "driver" (the person at the keyboard), and the other is the "navigator". Generally, you and your partner switch back and forth between these roles. We recommend you read this article on how to pair program efficiently. Pair programming is part of Extreme and Agile software development approaches used in some software companies. Here are a few references on pair programming: as part of Agile Development, guidelines for pair programming, pair programming in Computer Science courses, Even a middle school student can do it!.