INFO1103 Notes

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Lecture 1.2 – Programming Basics

- A program is a set of instructions for a computer such that it can understand and execute it
- Programs have to be written in a special format that obeys the syntax of the programming language you are using.
 - Once the text file is written, a compiler is used to turn the file into something a computer can read and run.
- Some major languages include C, C++, C#, VisualBasic, Java, Python, Pascal
- Java syntax includes:
 - Reserved words such as: public, static, float, void
 - Cannot use these for variables
 - Variable names cant begin with numbers
 - Blocks of code are delineated with braces { }
 - Expressions are delineated with parentheses ()
 - Array items are access with brackets []
 - Statements end with semi-colons;
 - Strings are limited by double quotes " "

Lecture 2.1 – Variables and Expressions

- Everything is stored as bytes
 - Each byte is eight bits
- Hexadecimal is a more compact way to store numbers in a range that's a power of two
 - \circ 2⁴ = 16, ranges from 0-F
 - To indicate a number is interpreted this way, we put 0x in front: 0x00 0xFF
- Variables are pieces of information that's stored in memory that is accessible via a give n name
 - Primitive types are the simplest types of variables (int), which use a fixed amount
 of memory. They can be changed through the use of math operations
 - Includes boolean, byte, short, int, long, float, double, char
 - Boolean = true/false (default false)
 - Char = single character (represent with '')
 - Java uses 16 bits per character to accommodate characters from other languages.
 - Byte, int, short, long = store integer values
 - Float, double = store decimal places
 - Double is more accurate, uses twice as many bits
 - Objects are customised type of variables (string).
 - Includes string