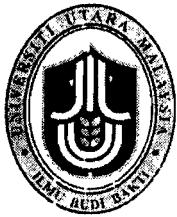


PLAGIARISM DETECTION SYSTEM FOR JAVA PROGRAMMING
ASSIGNMENTS BY USING GREEDY STRING-TILING ALGORITHM

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UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA
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PLAGIARISM DETECTION SYSTEM
FOR JAVA PROGRAMMING ASSIGNMENTS
BY USING GREEDY STRING-TILING ALGORITHM

A thesis submitted to the Graduate School in partial
Fulfillment of the requirement for the degree
Master of Science (Information and Communication Technology)
Universiti Utara Malaysia

By
Norulazmi bin Kasim

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ABSTRACT

Plagiarism is a serious problem faced by universities in the world. University Utara Malaysia, just like any other universities, also have to face this problem. Among Information Technology graduates, Java programming assignments is an essential part of learning programming as it trains the student to solve programming assignments so that they can improve their programming skills that is useful in their professional life after graduation. Unfortunately, some students resolve to copy their assignment from their friends, thus perform the act of plagiarism. For lecturers to detect plagiarism manually is tedious and time consuming, and in most cases almost impossible to be done. This project aims at developing a prototype software tool that can help lecturers detect similarities among student Java programming assignment, thus help lecturers to identify plagiarism offenders among students. The prototype system, known as Java Plagiarism Detection System (JPDS), implements the Greedy-String-Tiling algorithm to detect similarities among tokens in a Java source code files. It is hoped that this prototype will be the stepping stone for development of a more robust plagiarism detection software tool in the future.

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DEDICATION

This project is dedicated to my wife, **Salmah binti Katap**, and my new born son, **Muhammad Mifdhal bin Norulazmi**, who was born on the 28th May, 2008. You are the inspiration of my life....

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Wikipedia [1] defines plagiarism as “the practice of claiming or implying original authorship of (or incorporating material from) someone else's written or creative work, in whole or in part, into one's own without adequate acknowledgement”.

Plagiarism.org [3] further specified the following practices as plagiarism:

- a) turning in someone else's work as their own
- b) copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
- c) failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
- d) giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
- e) changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
- f) copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of their work, whether credit is given or not

Plagiarism is a plagued that is spreading through out academic world and endangering the credibility and quality of graduates as well as the academic institution itself. The Minister of Higher Education of Malaysia, Datuk Mustapha Mohamed, in a press conference in Seremban, stressed that universities should implement a proper control mechanism to curb plagiarism and also implement stringent penalties to plagiarism offenders [2]. He further suggests offenders of plagiarism to be expelled from university. Although the author have yet to find any

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