CS241 – Introduction

“If the teacher is not respected, if the student is not cared for, confusion will arise, no matter how clever you are.”

Tao Te Ching, 27

Goals

1. In any enterprise, this is always the first question to ask/answer.
2. Why are you taking this course?
3. Why not just learn this stuff on your own (see links).
   - accreditation
   - expert guide
   - structure
4. My goals
   - For you to become familiar with standard computing data structures and algorithms
   - For you to gain expertise building GUIs
   - Overall, for you to come away with confidence in your ability to solve most any computing problem you come across.
Computing as a tool

1. Computing (in the service of science, industry, commerce, entertainment, etc) allows us to do things that were impossible not long ago

2. Two quotes I was fond of 10 years ago
   - Of hardware: “If it’s delivered, it’s obsolete!”.
   - “The computing revolution has not properly started yet.”

3. Are they still true?
   - Of hardware: pretty much; Moore’s “law” is a scary thing
   - In general, maybe it has started...
     - Google
     - Amazon
     - Facebook
     - iPod/iPhone
     - Wikipedia
     - Open Source Software (including Java/NetBeans)