CSCI 120 Introduction to Computation
Homework 1
Due 02/05/09

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PART 1: Using Microsoft Word and Learning new things

Choose to do either (a) or (b).

(a) Describe an algorithm for a problem of your choice. This algorithm may be related to your field of studies or profession. It can also be the result of a search you do on the internet. In any case, provide the following:

- A precise statement describing how the algorithm works and the problem it solves or the task it achieves.

- The input to the algorithm

- The output of the algorithm

- A number of applications where this algorithm might be useful

(b) Do some research on an important figure in the field of computer science (or related fields such as math, phylosophy, physics, chemistry, wow everything is related!). Provide the following if possible:

- Biography, name, place of birth, etc...

- Something about the personality or some fun stories

- The contribution(s) that figure made to the field

- Your own view on how important those contributions are

Whether you choose to do (a) or (b), use Microsoft Word (part of the Microsoft Office aka MSBS) to write up the description as explained above. Use the drawing toolbar in MS Word as I showed you in class to add visual illustrations to your text.

PART 2: Your opinion
Do you think a day will come when everything we do is by computers? Are there things that computers cannot do or should not do? How far can we go? Write a paragraph or two on that issue (I always like what students have to say about this).