

Week 7 Reading

Details of the readings can be found on the [Reading Schedule](#) page.

Before the start of week 7, read:

Software developers like us build rules into the algorithm that the computer executes. The algorithms we design aim to make others' lives better. However, if we are not careful in how we design the algorithm, it can lead to detrimental effects. Oftentimes, we use computing to make decisions while designing algorithms. Computing is the process of using computers/technology to complete a given goal-oriented task.

When algorithms make decisions, they impact people often by deciding how resources will be allocated and who gets access to those resources. The ability to make decisions such as (1) how the resources will be distributed, and (2) how much access to those resources should be given, is an element of **power**. In this sense, computing embodies power.

We can analyze the sense of power in two ways. The first, called "**power to**", use our ability to do a task. For example, with computing, we have the power to connect with friends and family who are miles away. The other form of power, called "**power over**", involves an entity (e.g., a person or a software system) having power over another entity (a person or some system). For example, instructors have significant power over the classes they teach. The entity having the power can be a human or any artifact. For example, CSUF's class enrollment system has some power over your class enrollment since the system dictates the classes that you can enroll in, any priority that you get, or by enforcing course prerequisite checks.

The decisions we make during designing the algorithm(s) can have an impact on individuals in society. In software, sometimes the decision gets hidden so deep that unless we pay close attention, we will be unaware of the decision-making process. One way to pay attention is to analyze how the outcome is affecting people and backtrack to comprehend how the software is dictating the outcome.

Some ways to split tips between employees:

S. No	Technique	Description	Example
1	Percentage	Individual servers split a percentage of their total tips for the shift with their supporting staff. Percentage amount for	Say a server makes \$150 in tips. To fairly split tips between employees, you could follow this breakdown:

		split tips between employees is usually set by the manager	15% goes to kitchen – \$22.50 10% goes to the bar – \$15 5% goes to busser – \$7.50 2% goes to hostess – \$3
2	Pooling Points	Servers contribute 20 – 100% of their tips into a pool at the end of the evening, which is then distributed among support staff based on a point system (ie. Servers – 10 points; Bussers – 5 points; Bartenders – 5 points). In most cases, restaurants require servers to pool 100% of their tips so everyone goes home with a good amount.	You have 3 servers, each worth 10 points, they earn \$750 total at the end of their shift. The busser on duty gets 5 points and the two bartenders equal 10 points. That's a total of 45 points, which you would use to divide the total amount of tips (in this example, that's \$750/45 points = \$16.6).
3	Hours Worked	(Hours of Individual Server/Total Hours of all Servers x Tip Total (All staff) = The Share of Each Server	-
4	Weekly Pooling	Instead of splitting tips between employees at the end of the shift, pooling all the earnings each week and calculate the total to distribute among the staff.	-
5	Voluntary	Some restaurants use the honor system to determine how to split tips between employees. This gives more control to your team since servers can decide themselves how much they think each staff member has earned.	-
6	Separate Tip Options for Diners	Given diners may want to tip their server alone, or give a few extra dollars to the kitchen for an excellent meal. To assist with this demand, restaurants started adding another tip line for the kitchen on their checks.	-

More details on the splitting techniques mentioned above can be found at:
<https://www.buzztime.com/business/blog/6-ways-split-tips-between-employees/>

If you are interested in the history of tipping in the US, read the following articles:

1. <https://www.capradio.org/articles/2015/08/12/great-gratuity-a-brief-history-of-tipping-in-america/>
2. <https://home.binwise.com/blog/history-of-tipping-servers-waiters>

Optional Reading and Watching:

1. Read: Thinking Ethically:

<https://www.scu.edu/ethics/ethics-resources/ethical-decision-making/thinking-ethically/>

2. Watch: Big data and dangerous ideas – a Ted talk by Daniel Hulme:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tLQoncvCKx>