

Subject: Re: [ap-compsci] String literals and ==

Date: Monday, December 21, 2009 8:20 AM

From: Litvin <litvin@skylit.com>

Reply-To: "AP Computer Science" <ap-compsci@lyris.collegeboard.com>

To: AP Computer Science <ap-compsci@lyris.collegeboard.com>

Conversation: [ap-compsci] String literals and ==

At 02:23 PM 12/16/2009, Nick Parlante wrote:

>Not exactly answering your question, but I would avoid talking about ==
>much with Strings or with any objects at all.

>

>I was very "on message" in CS1 with the simple rule: use .equals() with
>objects and use == only with primitives like ints.

Nick,

I think it is better to explain both == and equals, and when to use which.

First, you need to use == to compare to null. Second, there are situations when you want to check whether two variables refer to the same object. Third, this discussion will help students appreciate the concept of references and the need to override Object's equals. Fourth, sooner or later a student will ask about this.

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