

Known Bugs and Alarming Behaviors

Grader Server Crashes: In most cases, if a student submits a program that commits a runtime error (such as a divide by zero or an infinite loop), the Grader will simply kill the program, assign a score of zero, and proceed with the next submission. However, it is possible that some programs may misbehave in such a way that Windows NT prevents the Grader from killing the program; in such cases, the Grader may fail to score any submissions correctly until the offending program is killed by a human operator.

No submissions will be lost in this situation, and the Grader will automatically rescore any pending project submissions with the correct timestamp once the misbehaving program is killed. You may, however receive multiple e-mail messages in the interim, each indicating a problem with your program and a score of zero. Don't be alarmed by this if you're sure your program does run properly, but notify the Grader Administrator (grader@cs.vt.edu) to be sure the problem is fixed as quickly as possible.

Enrollment Issues: The Grader will indicate you are not enrolled in the class if you enter an incorrect ID number, or if your PID is not correctly recorded in the roll file the Grader uses. This may be because you selected the wrong section, entered your ID number incorrectly, or because there is an error in the roll file. If the Grader insists you are not enrolled in your section, contact your GTA or Instructor as soon as possible to resolve the problem.

E-mail Notification Problems: The rate at which the Grader is receiving submissions will determine how long it takes for an e-mail message to be sent to you; normally you should receive a message within 5 minutes. In some cases, the Grader may fail to get a connection with the campus e-mail server when it attempts to send your e-mail scoring notification. In that case, you will not receive an e-mail message, although the scoring and recording of your grade will be completed. We're working on this problem. If you don't receive an e-mail confirmation, contact your GTA and ask them to confirm the submission and send you the results.

Getting Help and Reporting Problems

Sources of Help: If you need additional help using *Submit*, see your Instructor, or your GTA, or the Consultants in the Undergraduate Lab, not necessarily in that order. If you have questions about the score your program received, bring a copy of the e-mail message sent to you by the Grader.

Bug Reports: Problems and possible bugs can be reported to the Grader Administrator by e-mail: grader@cs.vt.edu.

Do not send an e-mail reply to the messages from the Grader — no one will either read or respond to such messages.