Testing, triggers, and sequences exercise

Why? With luck, at the end of the exercise, we'll have more to say about some questions:

- 1. How good are tests at driving designs?
- 2. What effect does the sequence of tests have on the final design? What effect does it have on the path to that design?
- 3. What do you do during design that you're normally not conscious of?
- 4. What would a practice element of an MFA program be like?

How? I have five groups of FIT tests. They talk about a hypothetical program for managing a veterinary clinic. A real veterinarian helped me write these tests.

You'll split into pairs. Every group will start with the same group of tests. When you're done with that group, come get another. Repeat until you've done all five groups. Each pair will get the groups in a different order.

Avoid writing code that isn't needed to pass the tests. However, in some cases the tests may not be strong enough to force a generalization you know you'll need. Use your own judgment - or ask me, acting as business expert - if you want to make the generalization. (If you make the generalization, use your own judgment about whether you want to write a FIT or JUnit test first.)

Along the way, the "navigator" half of the pair should keep track of the following:

- 1. What craft elements you used.
- 2. When you got feelings like "the code seems to be telling us to do X." (Please be generous with your partner if he's prone to such feelings and you're not.)
- 3. When you backed out decisions because of later tests.
- 4. When you made generalizations that the tests didn't force.
- 5. When you were triggered to ask questions of the business expert (me) or to want augmented tests.

After you've finished all the tests, seek out another finished pair. Describe your designs to each other. (I suggest Naked CRC.) Talk about your answers to the first three questions at the start of this page *for this program* (not in general). Form - perhaps share - an opinion about which design ended up better.

After everyone's finished, we'll get together as a whole and debrief.

Running FIT

I'll give you fit.jar before the exercise. Put it in your classpath. You run FIT this way:

java fit.FileRunner fit-input.html fit-results.html

I usually open a browser to the file fit-results.html and refresh it after each test. The easiest way to handle multiple test files is to concatenate them together into one.