The Design Process

Designing software means solving lots of little problems, all the time. The main problem in software design is what to create in the first place.

This process is useful for all kinds of things, but we are going to focus on using it for app design.

- **Define**
  - What kind of app would you like to create?
  - What are your constraints?
  - What does success look like?

- **Prepare**
  - Brainstorm / research possible elements
  - Compare pros and cons
  - Make a plan

- **Try**
  - Put your plan into action

- **Reflect**
  - How do your results compare to the goals you set while defining the app?
  - What can you learn from this or do better next time?
  - What new problems have you discovered?

What it Looks Like

Over the course of the next several weeks, you will have the opportunity to experiment with some existing games and design your own game based off of what you have learned. After creating your game, you will get the chance to present it to others and receive feedback. These steps are all critically important in the software industry, and getting practice with the elements of the design process will help you create better products more efficiently. Here is what the coming weeks will hold as we learn more about the design process.

1. **Define & Prepare**
   - Play existing games to get ideas and understand limitations
   - Brainstorm and plan your new or modified app

2. **Try**
   - Follow your plan to build an app

3. **Reflect & Edit**
   - Swap apps with another group to help make your projects better

4. **Present**
   - Show off your final product!