Shuffled Exams

Here is a video walkthrough of the solutions.

For this problem, we will be working with Exam and Student objects, both of which have only one attribute: sid, which is a number like any student ID.

PrairieLearn thought it was ready for the final. It had meticulously created two arrays, one of Exams and the other of Students, and ordered both on sid such that the ith Exam in the Exams array has the same sid as the ith Student in the Students array. Note the arrays are not necessarily sorted by sid. However, PrairieLearn crashed, and the Students array was shuffled, but the Exams array somehow remained untouched.

Time is precious, so you must design a O(N) time algorithm to reorder the Students array appropriately **without** changing the Exams array!

Hint: Begin by reordering **both** the Students and Exams arrays such that ith Exam in the Exams array has the same sid as the ith Student in the Students array.

Solution:

Let's begin by creating an ExamWrapper class that contains two attributes — an Exam instance and the index of the corresponding Exam in the Exams array. Next, for each Exam, create the corresponding ExamWrapper instance.

Run radix sort on the ExamWrappers, sorting them on the sid of the Exam instances. Similarly run radix sort on the list of Students, sorting them on sid as well. Note that both iterations of radix sort take linear time since the sid is of fixed length and of base 10.

At this point in the algorithm, we have "completed" the hint, but we still need move the ith Student to its proper place relative to the original Exams array. To acheive this, for the ith Student, we will access the ith ExamWrapper, and set the index of the ith Student as the ExamWrapper's index attribute.