The time spent in the SNHU Computer Science program has been challenging but in all the best ways. I took it to explore an avenue I was interested in and even thought I knew a fair bit about already. While I wasn’t entirely wrong, it certainly helped to peel back the curtain and now I have so much better of an understanding of the behind the scenes that I never had before. Prior to my experiences in the bachelor's degree program I was primarily hardware minded with an at least basic understanding of the software inside. The exposure I’ve received now is invaluable. Without completing the degree but while on the road to it I’ve been able to secure a better job as well as contribute at my job on a level that compliments my hands on skill set as well as the peers who I work with. While already being a team player before the program, the catalog of tools and skills I have at my disposal has grown immensely and I continue to learn every day, whether I’m in class or not. It’s important to continue to grow and adapt with changes and developments to stay current and effective.

The artifacts I selected for this ePortfolio are depictions of my ability to structure and develop code as well as how to execute and apply it. The IT-145 Zoo Authentication System received a significant redesign from its original form. It was far too complex given the simplicity of the function itself. The new refined code is far more elegant but just as functional if not more so. The redesign has a very “less is more” mindset applied. The CS-260 eBid element was refactored to make it more compartmentalized and to provide a function that could be use in other code again and again. It’s important to reuse code as you can not just to save your place of employ time but also yourself. No sense in reinventing the wheel each and every time. Lastly is the CS-340 Mongo database element, in this course we worked with functions to manipulate database data using another programing language to simplify the interface and make it more user friendly. The revisions here were to take it from one operating system and language to another. The result was something that took a little bit from each of the other elements in terms of best practices and worked to make something simple, but also robust and functional. While it’s important to make something that works, it’s equally as important to make something that is sharable and can be worked on amongst a group. No matter your career, there are things one might do one way that someone else would do a completely different way. Commenting in your code and following a logical process is a great way to make sure that someone who steps into your shoes after you’ve moved up or someone who ends up on your team can ease into a transition rather than face a steep learning curve.

The elements from each of these artifacts all play into one another, and there are common themes in each of them. Practices like keeping things simple and neat go a long way. With that, you can begin to grow the complexity without making it confusing. This is the guiding principal I’ve always used when I was primarily working with hardware and even still in my new career. My diverse background not only helps me work with virtually anyone, it also gives me a heap of life experience to pull from. My time as a baker taught me that the more you work something, the worse you can make it. It’s best to keep it simple and not spend too much time beating something into the ground. My time in retail taught me to leverage others strengths and partner myself with people who’s strengths are potentially my weakness, but to never stop learning and growing. The time I spent as a car electrician taught me to be methodical, because I wouldn’t always be the next person to see the wiring in that car. What is logical to me might not be logical to someone else, so making it clear and neat was paramount. The brief time as a mechanic then taught me the importance of work smarter not harder. Not that there weren’t pieces of that in all my prior jobs but there was no sense in struggling when there was another way to approach it. There was no sense in fighting to save a part when the time wasted would be greater than the cost of a replacement.

Employees are assets to any company; my goal has always been to be a noteworthy asset. By learning, adapting, and performing reliably I make a name for myself and my brand. I would say that it stands to reason that the things I learned were not specific to the careers in which I learned them. I found myself applying a lot of these mindsets during my time at SNHU. Teaching an attitude and mindset like mine is a challenge. It tends to be largely driven by personality. The skills I’ve learned are another tool in my repertoire at my disposal and increases my value, and the value of the skills I’ve learned at SNHU have been significant.