Aaron Shaneen

Group #3

August 11th Entry

Decisions: Not many decisions were made this week. Mostly just a lot of work on making sure the website is up and running smoothly for our final demo. Most decisions have been made and implemented by this point.

Challenges: We’ve had some challenges with the backend. We’ve been working on the site while it was hosted on GibHub but moving it to a live server has proved difficult.

Interactions: We have our final demo this week and will be presenting our “finished” product to the class.

Accomplishments: I feel like completing this project at all was a huge accomplishment. We had a lot of different moving pieces and bringing them together was a huge accomplishment.

Reflections: After working on a website as small as this one I’m actually quite amazed by bigger websites and now I realize how much work goes into making sites as simple as ours. I’m still not a huge fan of web development but I’m glad I’ve had the opportunity to work on this and learn so much.

July 22nd Entry

Decisions: Not many decisions made this week, save for the last sprint and all that we need to do to finish up the product for our final presentation. We have also made some decisions concerning the profile and post pages and how to fit all our basic features and functionality into these areas.

Challenges: The only challenges we really had this week was group communication. Between work and other classes we were challenged a bit to get everything connected and working properly. We’ve had hangouts going since this project has started but catching each other at the right time has been difficult.

Interactions: We demoed to Ted this week and hopefully we’ve made the progress he was looking for.

Accomplishments: I don’t know how much of a nightmare getting a website front end connected to the back end is, but we have definitely put in the time to get this done.

Reflections: I’ve learned a lot and continue to learn more. I wish I knew more about the back end of things so I could be a bit more help with it. Besides that I’m pretty proud of the product as we finish it up and get ready to present it.

July 15th Entry

Decisions: This week Richard and I made more decisions on the look and flow of the front end and how pages like the profile and posts pages can be ordered to be versatile and yet still intuitive and simple.

Challenges: We were challenged greatly with designing the pages mentioned above, and had to design most of it without input from the rest of the group. We also struggled with the tools we are using as well since Richard and I are both unfamiliar with the languages and libraries and the one person that knows them has been hard to meet with.

Interactions: This week Richard and I met again, but the rest of the group either couldn’t make it until much later or didn’t show up at all. This made things rather difficult as one of the last things we need to get done with the project is get the front end connected to the back end; which requires the entire group to meet up at once.

Accomplishments: We did come up with some good designs for the profile and posts pages. We are trying to make these individual pages as universal as possible without sacrificing simplicity too much. We also want to use what space we have to the max without coming off as lazy or unwilling to expand these sections into more pages of their own.

Reflections: Overall, I’m pretty happy with my work these past couple weeks. For being completely new to ALL of this I have been keeping up fairly well and contributing what I can to the group.

July 8th Entry

Decision: This week Richard and I were faced with decision on basic functionality for the front end. It still seems like we need a lot to move this along, but I’m guessing that’s a norm for situations like this. For the backend we decided to move searching/filtering to the backend to make it faster instead of returning everything and having to sort through it on the front end.

Challenges: We had some challenges in designing the dashboard to our website. With Richard and I both quite unfamiliar with the tools and languages we’re using it proved a little tricky to get everything to line up smoothly.

Interactions: We had our demo 2 this week and though we would’ve liked to have been further along, we were proud of the progress we’ve made so far; especially with half the group working out of their element and comfort zone.

Accomplishments: No huge accomplishments besides the fact that the website is coming together nicely by a group that is not experienced with most of the stuff we’re using to develop it.

Reflections: I had just started to get familiar with Vue.js when this last sprint threw me a curve ball and I had to learn Bootstrap as well for some front end stuff. But I learned what I could and with some help managed to get my stuff done in time and make it look rather nice.

July 1st Entry

Decisions: Not many big decisions were made this week, but one that Richard and I have been making is deciding which pages to precede with first if we are going for bare bones functionality. In the case that we are going for the “skateboard” first, then moving forward with a “scooter”, it seems that there are quite a few basic necessity pages that we need to create.

Challenges: Deciding on the above pages has definitely been a major challenge. I know it’s easy to fall into the trap of thinking that *all* the pages are necessary, but it has really been difficult. If we go the route of getting the main functionality of just the classifieds pages down then great, we have a classifieds website. But in that, we have no way to actually buy, sell, or inquire about it since all the user functionality will have been forfeited for the classifieds pages. Likewise, if we develop all the user front end instead, then we can have users but they will have no way to view items.

Interactions: I’m not privy to any interaction we’ve had outside of the group. Within the group however we have been having hangout sessions and discussing connecting the back end to the front end.

Accomplishments: Developing the front end has definitely been a huge accomplishment of mine personally. I believe everyone else is pretty familiar with their section of the project, but I am completely out of my element with almost every aspect of this project. So the fact that I’m learning and even able to help contribute at all is a big accomplishment in my eyes.

Reflections: I continue to learn and glean what I can from Richard (my front end counterpart) and have come to realize that even though I’ve never really been interested in web development, it’s actually pretty interesting and satisfying to work on.

June 24th Entry

Decisions: This week the guys working on the back end made some important decisions, but none of which I fully understand. Trevor and Sam seem really good at what they do though and we’ve had no issues so far. For the front end we had a hard time deciding on what are absolute basics with a site that seems to need at least half a dozen pages, bare minimum, to be functional on a basic level, but we feel comfortable with what we’ve set as a goal.

Challenges: Not many challenges yet, but I think as we move closer to having the back end set up it will be a little challenging getting the site to hit the server consistently (as I imagine is at least semi-common). Also, we’re all kind of working out of our comfort zone with the tools and platforms we’re using, but the learning experience has been challenging, yet rewarding.

Interactions: We gave our first demo to Mr. Cowan showing what we’ve completed so far and it seemed to go over smoothly. We planned for a more challenging sprint this coming week so we’ll see how the next meeting goes.

Accomplishments: For Richard and I, at least, we’re ironing out the pages we have set up already and the back end is coming along nicely from what we’re told, even though I don’t understand much of it.

Reflections: I feel a lot better this week about my role. Richard has taken huge steps to help me understand the things that are a bit over my head and that’s made a huge difference. I’ve never been particularly interested in web design but I have to admit it’s kind of catchy and interesting once you finally dig into it.

June 17th Entry

Decisions: The past two weeks have been dominated by trying to decide what software to use for which features of our project. While I am not too keen on a lot of this, having not actively worked in the industry yet, I’m a little confused by it all but for starters we do have things in place.

Challenges: As stated above, there are a plethora of tools to use for any given need in a software project. Deciding which would be best, while giving us enough functionality but not overcomplicating things was the biggest challenge.

Interactions: Bryan did email about getting in touch with someone concerning our classified site for WSU, but I am unaware if that’s happened yet.

Accomplishments: We’ve got Jira rolling with different aspects of our project and things are starting to move forward with the look of the site and who’s in charge of what on the back end.

Reflections: After being MIA for a couple weeks due to personal issues I finally made it back to class and in touch with my group. I have a bit of catch up to do on where the project is at the moment and we have our first deliverable coming up soon as well.

June 3rd Entry

Decisions: With our project idea in place this week we decided who would be best to be Project Lead and who would be Design Team Lead. Since Bryan has already been doing an outstanding job as Leader we decided to let him continue in that capacity. And since Sam was the one to initiate the project idea we decided he should be pseudo leader of the Design Team.

Challenges: The only challenge I faced this week was not feeling well and missing out on class and trying to keep up via email. Other than that, I’m not too sure what challenges the team faced in class.

Interactions: I’m unaware of what interactions we’ve had thus far but I do know we are looking to setup a solid contact with Weber State to start moving forward with the design phase of our project.

Accomplishments: We made good ground on our project charter way ahead of schedule, which is good in itself, but by doing so also gave ourselves plenty of room to nail down details and expand on our project.

Reflections: Again, being sick took a lot of steam out of me, but I’m looking to get back into it this coming week and contribute whatever I can to our team effort. I also came to realize that I rather like the documentation side of this whole project. Being a writer, turned code “writer”, has given me a unique opportunity to help out with the documentation.

May 27th Entry

Decisions: This week we finally decided on a group project and it sounds simple enough to complete within the semester but has enough potential to be expanded on if we need more work to finish off the semester. We’re also currently making final decisions on who should be the Project Leader and who should head the Software Team.

Challenges: Again, it was challenging coming to a decision on a group project but with time being a factor we settled on something before it came too late. Now we are challenged with finding what software we want to use to complete our project for the duration of the semester.

Interactions: We only really had interactions with Mr. Cowan in brainstorming our idea. With some of his input we felt good enough about our website to agree to move forward on it. Now that, that is set we are looking to set up communication with someone regarding the project so that we have a client in place.

Accomplishments: We came together like we have yet to do so to help take one of our member’s idea and expand on it enough to make it a viable project. We also have set up a good route of communication between the project team members to start moving forward with actual work.

Reflections: I feel a lot better about my role in the team after this week. While I’m not currently employed in our field like three of the others I do have strengths that I am leaning into to help our team out in whatever way I can. I plan to continue to do this and to seek whatever help I can from our more experienced members and we start to move into design and production phases.

May 20th Entry

Decisions: This week our group decided to try out a project idea that was recommended by one of our members involving a sort of preliminary/supplemental instruction site for Weber State computer science majors. While details still need to be ironed out this sounds like a choice we were all comfortable with taking on for the time being.

Challenges: While we have an initial plan for our project, the idea has proven to either be one extreme or the other; either too much work or not enough to make a substantial product. If we move in the direction of adding on all the features we were thinking of to make it a relevant product we might bite off more than we can chew within the time frame of a semester. We are currently working out those details to fine tune this workload.

Interactions: We discussed the above project idea mostly over the discussion board on Canvas and a bit in class. However, within these interactions there was some confusion in translation. When we presented the idea to the professor that confusion came out and made the idea sound a bit fragmented, which wasn’t good.

Accomplishments: This coming week we hope to flesh out these details about our project idea and start filling a log with potential features that can make it a viable product. Once that is said in stone we hope to set up contact with the appropriate individuals to begin the collaboration with our “customer”.

Reflections: I once again feel like I’m not contributing very much even though I’m trying to take some initiative to do so. Coming to an agreement on a project idea has proven difficult to say the least, while the rest of the class settled on something within the first class period we were given to do so. If I was a bit more confident in a specific field I feel like ideas would’ve come more naturally but I am not; so they did not. I’m going to continue to work on brainstorming what we have and try to fill it out enough for our group so that hopefully something sticks and we can start moving forward.

May 13th Entry

Decisions: This week our group quickly and decidedly chose a group leader when we were first formed. We basically just asked each other who wanted to do it, if anyone, and Bryan quickly volunteered, which we were all okay with. One objective that we did not meet was agreeing on a project for the semester. The only place all of us felt mutual on was web development which limited some of our early ideas.

Challenges: We are still challenged in finding a project to work on. We had some ideas that seemed to short lived and easy to be a 4-month project. Others seemed far too extensive to even get done within a semester. We agreed to brainstorm ideas over this weekend to see if we can come up with something before we just default to project from the professor.

Interactions: We had no interaction with a “customer” as we have yet to settle on a project idea.

Accomplishments: This week we hope to settle on a project that will prove challenging yet doable within the time frame that we have and set up connections with the customer to begin communicating project ideas with them.

Reflections: I feel comfortable with the group as they are all willing and able to help the weaker, less experienced members. I am indeed one of those weaker, less experienced members and that was a little intimidating. I believe we have two members who are actively employed in our field and another who could easily be (if he isn’t already). I, however, have zero experience and have only ever come in contact with the theoretical assignments done in school; and most of those were done years ago in past classes. I’m trying to keep my chin up and realize that our science is more of an art of figuring stuff out. I just hope that I can contribute enough value to the group that my place doesn’t become a burden.