

Pelycan Report

We have found that some of the most important educational experiences we have had over the course of our time here at UML were extracurricular activities such as clubs and seminars. We also found that many of these activities go unnoticed due to a lack of proper communication, notifications get lost in email or on a wall full of posters. We wanted to create a centralized place where students and faculty could post upcoming extracurricular events without having them get lost amidst other information. Our goal was to have this site function as a nearly full social media site, with user login, comments, liking and more.

Our approach was to create a web-app using a React.js front end and Node.js/Express backend. We decided to use React over approaches like vanilla JS because we wanted to have many aspects of conditional rendering, which is much easier and cleaner in React. As for our backend, we chose Node.js over something like PHP to have a fully JavaScript stack, reducing variation in code and overall making the development process smoother.

Except for the NPM packages we imported for our project, we wrote all the code ourselves. On nearly every file on both the frontend and backend we both worked on it. Every file has some code written by Brandon and some code written by Serey, but we did not push to GitHub until we were entirely done so we each uploaded half. All of the front end code, including the React components and the global data store were written by us. As for the backend, all the API routing and database interactions were written by us. We have prior experience with React and Node.js so we did not need to take code from anywhere else.