Travlr Getaways : The Artifact of Many Avenues  
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The artifact I am focusing on first is Travlr Getaways, a full stack travel booking application that I began developing in May 2025 with most of the modules created by the end of June 2025. The project was originally created for my CS-465 Full Stack Development course, but it quickly became an incredible resource to help me grow as a developer. This was built with the MEAN stack – MongoDB, Express.js, Angular, and Node.js. It allows me to create a environment similar to a real-world application and allows customers to look over travel experiences while also allowing administrators to manage and update the trips using a secure administrator profile.

I included this artifact specifically in my ePortfolio because it shows one of the first times I was fully responsible for both the frontend and backend architecture in a professional-grade system. The admin panel alone meant I needed an advanced Angular integration, including reactive forms, standalone components, routing, and a token-based security. This experience really challenged me to move past basic templates and tutorials. I personally had to identify problems, implement the solutions, and make trade-offs in real time. For instance, I refactored legacy form logic to use reusable reactive solutions that improved data validation and user experience while making the codebase easier to maintain. Each of these changes shows my ability to implement clean, scalable, and secure software design practices.

One of the most significant improvements to this project involved integrating robust user authentication using JSON Web Tokens or JWT. This made sure only authenticated users could access administrative functions, such as adding or updating trips. Implementing JWTs also gave me the chance to work with HTTP interceptors in Angular, which allowed for a better header injection and more secure API requests. Through this, I deepened my understanding of both frontend and backend security, one of the core requirements in any software development project.

The process of enhancing this artifact allowed me to meet a couple of the key Computer Science program requirements. I improved my ability to design and implement solutions using the provided industry standard tools like Angular, Express and Mongoose. I also managed database schemas with NoSQL flexibility and tackled a complicated asynchronous communication design using clean JSON APIs. I also improve the overall communication and UX build of the admin panel, aligning it with the expectation for usability and design clarity. These elements support my development in both software engineering and secure design practices.

What I found most rewarding, however, was how this project forced me to become more comfortable and independent with the unknown. Many of the examples I found during class and research were either outdated or didn’t use the standalone component structure I needed. Instead of giving up or restarting completely, I took the time to take apart how they communicate, how data flows from form to database, and how to troubleshoot connection issues between the frontend and backend. Depending on my and adapting to these challenges are things I will carry with me long after graduation.

Travlr Getaways is more than a class assignment, it is a fully integrated web application that shows my growth, persistence, and problem-solving skills. It demonstrates not just that I can build something from scratch, but that I can improve it, make it secure, and optimize It to meet the needs of real users. By taking a professional approach to both the development and reflection process, I believe this artifact clearly shows my progress toward my competency in software engineering, algorithms, and secure system design.