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**Portfolio-Personal Story’s Foundations**

**Beginning**

Four months ago, I wasn’t sure if I would catch on to coding. I’ve had experiences in the past where I surprised myself. I did well in statistics and accounting. I also did well in excel and power point.

I believe that throughout life you pick up and build upon experiences. When I first started coding, I could see the math I learned in statistics. When I couldn’t get a function or code to come out correctly. I could see the accounting errors I once had, how the code is connected and works together to get the correct outcome.

I had never used VS code, the terminal in my computer, git or github. At first, I had a really hard time understanding what I was reading and doing. Get hub was the first part I started to get the hang of like power point. I learned how to display and show my work on gethub. I had a very hard time learning how to use my terminal and git. It took me a long time to visualize where my terminal was and how it was grabbing information. It took me a while to understand how VS code stored and used the code within the languages and file structures. Similar to learning excel. I had to see how information was used and expressed to show the working results.

At first yeah, I had bugs in my code. I also had trouble getting my files to commit. I needed a second pair of eyes to try to run my code. A second pair of eyes to see why my files weren’t committing. My husband was that second pair of eyes. He is a QA manager in tech. He could see where my code was failing and where my commits were failing.

But I learned how to teach myself to see and understand. I got in the habit of reading over code telling myself what is happening and why. I got in the habit of looking up what I didn’t fully understand. I can read code now. I can read functions and methods online. I’ve learned how to search for coding solutions that are within my abilities and understanding.

I’m continuing to see a bunch of past and current experiences come together.

**Foundations Capstone**

For the longest time the thought of our foundations capstone made me nervous. I was and still am nervous about how well I can get my code working.

I started brainstorming my ideas weeks before planning my project. I thought about all my strengths and weaknesses. I thought about what examples I could use from past exercises and assessments. I looked over the requirements. I looked over the handouts and notes I’ve taken.

I wrote out what my page main features would be and what they would say and do. I even attempted to think of what tags I would use. I thought of what my request, responses, handler functions, files, database, and server. I knew that I wasn’t fond of CSS and SQL. I also knew that I understand the backend better than the frontend.

I started out fresh in VS code. I created my html and CSS first. I rearranged them several times. My goal was to make it easy to build out my page with clear classes, id’s, forms, inputs, text area and buttons. The CSS was tricky at times. Trying to get my forms, inputs, and buttons to show up and react the way I wanted them to. The background was hard to select because of the sizing, contrasting colors and font styling.

Next, I created my server files with required packages and files. Then I created the frontend with required packages and files. Seemed straight forward. I soon found out that I wanted a controller file. Then after playing around with requests and responses for my get and posts. I ended up adding more to my controller file. And changed how people would interact with buttons and examples.

These files led to creating a database for the input provided by people visiting the page. And keeping the controller file for getting examples from module exports. The database uses sequelize and a seed file with two tables.

Of course, I wasn’t sure if I had enough requests and responses for my page. I attempted to add delete functions for my inputted data. They weren’t needed for the function of the page. I got the deletes to work. It wasn’t logical to take the time building out a way to delete both inputs. I would have to take into account providing, or not providing input id’s and when they could be deleted.

Yes, I got a working page. Yes, I had help along the way to get the combined ideas working. But that is part of real life. You’re going to be working on much larger projects that involve many people or departments. A second or more eyes on a project is needed. I worked a little with my cohorts over my time at Devmountain. Just having someone to bounce ideas off of was very helpful. Sometimes just pointing each other in the right direction. I’m proud of how far I’ve come in four months.