Journal

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CIT 261

Getting Started: Week 1-2

This week has been a whirlwind of activity getting started with this and my other classes. I worked with my group to find a time that we all could meet, learned about Github pages, and set up my Github website, waited for more information, and worried when the more information wasn’t quick in coming. Then I got smart and started asking questions.

Things I learned this week:

* It is difficult to find a time to meet with 5 adults with jobs and families from all over North and South America. We have exactly 1 hour on Tuesday and 1 hour on Thursday when we are all available. When daylight savings time happens, those two hours will disappear. Then we will have to get creative.
* I remember quite a bit from my last Javascript class over a year ago.
* Github has personal webpages, and they are free!
* I need to work to make this class a priority. Even though there are not any hard deadlines until April, I will get myself into trouble if I don’t work steadily on the assignments.
* If I have a question, I need to ask it. Information doesn’t seem to be forthcoming unless it is specifically asked for.
* Associative Arrays. I have seen them in Java and PHP, though under different names, but I haven’t seen them in Javascript before. The first of many new concepts.

I’m moving now: Week 3

I feel like I am getting a handle on this class. I submitted the first two topic for review and received full points for them. I was a little discouraged to see the grade of F, but then I realized that I would have to work my way up to the A that I want. My daughter threatened to take away my phone until I get my grade up, since that is what I do with her if she is doing poorly in school.

Things I learned this week:

* There are many ways to create objects in JavaScript.
* There are classes in JavaScript, though I don’t fully understand how they are different from prototypes, and what the benefit is to using them. I wonder if they are just to make programmers from other languages feel more secure working with JavaScript.
* If you don’t succeed in getting your code to work the first time, try, try again, and again, and again. Object.create() was giving me trouble for a while.
* I still need to work on managing my time better. I had planned to learn 2 topics this week, but it is nearing the end and I have only submitted one. I still have a couple days left. Hopefully I can speed things up.
* Associative Arrays and Objects. They are the same thing, I think.

Gaining Confidence: Week 4

* I was able to get 3 topics turned in this week. I received full points on 2 of them. That is making me feel successful.
* I learned about JSON strings, XMLHTTPRequests, and Local Storage this week. It got me thinking about some things I could do with them for an app.
* I had fun and some frustration trying to get my XMLHTTPRequest program working. I found I had to make one of the requests synchronous or the other would try to send before the first was finished. Synchronous is deprecated, so I wonder if there is a better way to make the second request to delay until the state changed. Maybe I should put it inside the onreadystatechange function for the first request.
* I taught my group about JSON parse and stringify this week, which went well.
* I’m going to try to squeeze in 1 more topic this week.