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. In 3 weeks, when daylight savings time happens, that 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. Yay me!
* Github has personal webpages, and they are free!
* I need to work to make this class a priority. I have some difficult classes this semester, including CIT 225, Database design and development, which seems to be taking all of my time. I kept meaning to work on this class, but I had pressing due dates, a difficult lab, and a killer test to study for that crowded everything else out. I finally sat down Saturday and spent a marathon day working on loops, conditional statements, etc. That can’t happen next week or I will not pass this class. I made up my personal plan, and I am going to stick to it.
* If I have a question, I need to ask it. One thing that is really different about this class, among many other things, is the lack of a class wide discussion board. In past classes, if I had a question, usually someone else had already asked and answered it on the disucssion board. I miss that discussion board. I think I will miss it more and more as the semester goes on.
* 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.