Career Reflection Journal Entry

Part One:

Have you changed your career plans? If so, what prompted this change? If not, why have you remained with your original plan?  
 I have remained committed to my original career plan of pursuing a role in software development with a focus on full-stack web applications and game programming. My interests have expanded to include AI-assisted tools and system architecture design, but the core path remains steady. This consistency stems from my enjoyment of solving real-world problems through technology, combined with my growing skills in system integration and user interface design. I am currently working as a data analyst, and happy there, but continue to pursue more.

How has your thinking about your career evolved?  
 As I’ve progressed through the Computer Science program, I’ve become more focused on the importance of writing maintainable, scalable code that aligns with industry practices. My thinking has evolved from being narrowly focused on implementation to appreciating the full software development lifecycle and its alignment with goals.

Have you completed any research about your choice of career? How has this impacted your thinking? Have you thought about seeking an advanced degree or certification after earning your undergraduate degree?  
 Yes, I’ve researched different roles in software engineering, and I’m particularly drawn to roles in full-stack development, DevOps, and AI systems integration. I would even look, and love to work in the videogame industry. This research has helped me focus on gaining hands-on experience with GitHub, and cloud services. I am considering certification in cloud computing (AWS or Azure) and possibly pursuing a master’s degree in software engineering to deepen my theoretical understanding and leadership abilities.

Which course outcomes have you achieved so far, and which ones remain?  
 I’ve achieved strong outcomes in designing scalable solutions (CS 465), writing secure code (CS 405), and implementing efficient algorithms (CS 410). I’ve also demonstrated the ability to analyze and improve legacy code and apply security practices. What remains is fine-tuning my ePortfolio to clearly present these strengths and continuing to improve my communication of complex technical concepts through documentation and narrative writing.

### **Status Checkpoints for All Categories**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Checkpoint** | **Software Design and Engineering** | **Algorithms and Data Structures** | **Databases** |
| **Name of Artifact Used** | CS405: Encryption and Decryption Tool | CS410: Permission Access System | CS465: Travlr Getaways MEAN Stack Web Application |
| **Status of Initial Enhancement** | Enhancement complete: Refactored for modularity, added error handling | Enhancement complete: Optimized permission validation logic | Enhancement in progress: Adding reporting features and admin search |
| **Submission Status** | Submitted in Milestone Two | Submitted in Milestone Three | Milestone Four in progress |
| **Status of Final Enhancement** | Final version tested, comments added | Final version tested, benchmarked for performance | Admin controls and filtering under development |
| **Uploaded to ePortfolio** | Yes | Yes | Still working on implementation |
| **Status of Finalized ePortfolio** | Structure in place; self-assessment draft pending | Integrated in main navigation with detailed narrative | Final narrative and polish pending |

Optional Feedback

I am currently polishing the Databases artifact (Travlr Getaways) and would appreciate feedback on how to best present the new reporting and admin filtering features. I also want to ensure my narratives clearly explain the link between enhancements and course outcomes. All artifacts and enhancements are being maintained on GitHub: <https://github.com/Hearin1/CS499>. Must travel to other branch to see the sample product of what is happening.