First Project Requirements and Overview

Your first project will be created in Ruby on Rails and will provide you with a great start to your portfolio for seeking jobs.

Timeline

Projects begin on Friday, Oct 24th and conclude on the morning of Friday, Oct 31st.

You will need to have a short 60 second 'pitch' for your project on the 27th, in which you will explain to the class what you would like to build.

On the 31st, you will present the project to the class, showing both the end results and code. You should plan on taking no more than 10 minutes for this, with a few minutes for questions by classmates and the instructional team.

Requirements

Timely completion of this project is **mandatory** for completion of this class. Anyone failing to complete this project will not be eligible for graduation from the program and may be asked to drop the program.

Technical requirements:

- Use one or more APIs or external data sources
- Deploy to Heroku
- Have three or more associated models
- Implement a user login/authentication system
- Frequent Git commits and sharing of code to Github (must push to GitHub and Heroku every night)
- Must use a front-end framework (Bootstrap, Foundation, etc)
- Every model and controller must have at least one test
- Clean code free of major errors

Your app should also have a clear purpose and pleasing user experience.

Common Mistakes & Tips

Students typically bite off more than they can chew for their first project. Keep it simple, as you'll have time for more complex projects in the future and more tools to approach them. Plan your time wisely. Use some project management software to help plan out and keep track of tasks. Make drawings and diagrams. Start simple and then build out from there. Keep your code in a working state at all times.

Things like mapping, depending on scraping data from other sites, or importing giant data sets often proves to be problematic. Avoid using JavaScript for this project as we'll be covering this in later weeks.

Other mistakes include failing to make frequent Git commits, not having a clear sense of their problem, not deploying to Heroku until the last minute or changing the scope of what they are doing drastically in the middle of the project.

Finally, when it comes to presenting your project please be confident, clear, concise and tell us a story. First frame the problem, and then show us how your project solves this problem.

Do not show us how to click links on a web site or explain everything verbatim. Talk about what it does, not what you didn't get to.

Process over product!!