What I learned – Build something from scratch Phase – Week 2

This was the first week of actual programming for the project we were assigned, the first week of the phase was more about defining the way we were going to work. As a team we decided to program the whole project in JS using Nodejs, frameworks like React (frontend) and Express (backend), using libraries like Bootstrap, Formik and others from React such as React router. In this essay, I will go through what I learned this week and the process of learning.

At the beginning of the project we decided to create tickets, so anyone could program what they chose to, although the objective was to open the possibility to code in the backend or frontend, at the end most of us started to lean into one side or another, in my case I went for the frontend. Although I didn't do it consciously, I just chose random tickets, I enjoyed the experience I had with it last week.

In order to code the frontend, I had to learn React and the documentation of libraries like Bootstrap and Formik. For this I started to look into the documentation, as well as some videos and examples, but who helped me a lot to know how to start and guide me through the process of learning was my mentor, because he is a frontend developer, who mostly works with React right now. He thought me about React and creating components, how to use JSX, react hooks, display things in pages, gave an introduction into Bootstrap and Formik. After helping I started to look more into them in order to complete my tickets that I picked, I started experimenting with the bootstrap library to see how it displayed things, as well I looked into the basics of html and css in order to understand what I was coding, how tags works, which types of tags there are, how can you create specific css styles by indicating the properties and its value, this helped to modified the bootstrap library to the colors I needed.

Although my tickets were mainly in the frontend, with the help of my coworkers and my mentor I looked into the code of the backend, since the frontend makes calls to the API I wanted to understand what was happening. I used Postman in order to test the routes of the backend, because these were used in the front side to retrieve data. From what I learned I thought the backend is pretty interesting, you can control how the data is received and sent and create resources that help the front, of course this doesn't cover everything the back does, but I look forward into learning more about it and will try to learn more in the next weeks, this way I could help with it or debug if an error occurs.

At the end of the week I learned plenty about using React, React hooks, Bootstrap, Formik and how to connect with the API. Even though I learned a lot, I feel like I know 5% of each, I still have plenty I need to learn, in order to apply evrything in the correct way and take advantage of everything they have to offer, but I feel motivated to learn more and I enjoyed the whole week while I was programming and learning.