

What I learned – Real Clients, Real Users– Week 2

Since we were assigned to our projects, we have been working on them non-stop, although things could change soon, because of some news we received through the week, as I have been working on my project.

What my teammate and I have been assigned this phase, is to work on the backend of a video web app. The project had already started before we were assigned to it, although the backend was already made, it was not properly done, and some requirements were missing. For this reason, the team behind it decided to create a new one from scratch and took this opportunity to use Koa JS as the web framework for Node.js and Mongo DB as the database. For this reason, through the week I have been learning about Mongo DB, how a NOSQL database works and how you can structure documents and collections. For this it was helpful to take the courses that Mongo DB University offers.

Another topic I had to research was about Koa JS, as we decided to use this node framework instead of Express, we chose Koa because in terms of performance it seemed to be our best option, as it is a light framework compared to Express or others. For Koa you can export whatever you need, this way you do not have to use an entire library which you might not use half of it. Unfortunately, I would not be able to say if Koa is better than Express, because I have not had experience using it, although so far, I have enjoyed working with it, as it is easy to access the HTTP responses and requests, and it has plenty of methods you can use to shorten the written code like `.throw()` or use assertions.

We were also tasked to learn about the API from Microsoft, which you can use to login into your app through Microsoft, this is by using the Graph API, although we have not implemented it yet into the app we will do in the near future, but I just grasp the usage of it.

Leaving the topics from above aside, the main thing I learned this week was to how to build a REST API and a CRUD in Koa, before I haven't worked on developing APIs, so this was a challenge for me to start everything from scratch, I had to learn to divide everything into modules, services, controllers and routes. On top of that, as I was doing it in Koa, there was not too many guides or examples on how to create one. Now that I have been working on this side (not the front end) I know now that I also enjoy this part.