Midterm Report

In this summary, I will discuss this midterm project in at a high-level and give my retrospective on its. I will first outline my approach and design then talk a bit about the tools I used. After that discussion is complete I will give my summation on my areas of difficulty.

In my approach with this project I started with design of the pages, I kept the CSS minimal to just adjust padding in a couple of places but I aimed to keep it simple and focus on the functionality. Once the pages were done I needed to work on the database model which on its own wasn’t too difficult to build the difficulties came into play when it came to getting integration to work and writing to and reading from the database.

Once I completed my piece I needed to test it with some simple data to ensure that it worked and met specifications. In terms of tools I used Microsoft’s MSDN website and stack overflow for research and I used visual studio community 2017 with entity framework 5.xx.

My difficulty with project was exclusively with the database integration part of which I feel has a great deal to do with the entity framework itself. I ran into several issues with trying to get data to bind, and set up a model as a data source to read from and write to my database after spending hours digging into the framework online I found that apparently Entity 6.xx simply doesn’t allow that to happen so I needed to downgrade to entity 5.xx to get it to work with this project by opening a new project, pulling all my web files over and renaming all of my namespaces.

Another issue I had was getting the login page to query the database. It was very hard to try to figure out exactly what I needed to have inside of my SQL connection command if not for stack overflow and the geniuses there I probably would never have realized that the string I needed was data source in a config file.

Lastly the most time consuming bugs I ran into were getting the redirect feature to work since I needed to manually add an app string to my config file to remove the jQuery issue with unobtrusive data and the aspx files. Aspx isn’t installed natively in vs 2017 community. I needed to use installer to manually add the packages then install dependencies with nuget package manager.

In conclusion, I learned a great deal about database communication and mdf files usage as well as the quirks that come with debugging a database connection and how difficult it can be. I wish I had more practice at it before attempting this project as most of my time was spent on trying to get things to talk to each other the right way so I didn’t get as much room to play with the storage and security side of the information or spend more time in making the pages look useful and attractive.