

CVWO Final Submission Write Up

Over the course of the assignment, I have seen myself made progress in how I would think about the approach to the UI design of an application. While I already understood the basics of compartmentalising the different components, there are some high-level decisions I made that were questionable at best. For example, I completely disregarded the responsiveness of the UI initially, and it made my subsequent attempts to convert the UI into a mobile friendly version extremely difficult. While not impossible, I do not have the sufficient expertise nor skills with CSS to create a solution to it.

Addressing the libraries used, I felt that I had not learnt much in relation to how CSS works, and my current proficiency in it is superficial at best. This can be attributed to how I started learning about it in the first place, which is through third party libraries like React-Bootstrap. Due to this reason, for the assignment itself, I would estimate the time I spent on the frontend of the application to be a close 95% of the total time I spent on the assignment.

With regards to the design process which I executed for the ideation for the UI, I followed no specific workflow. Rather than the standard ideation of user flow to the sketching of how it would look like, I took the liberty to mimic the structure of Todoist's UI. That said, instead of creating the custom CSS stylings, I heavily relied on Material UI's libraries of components.

There were some unexplained Heisenbugs which I encountered which were somehow mysteriously resolved on a page reload. This still leaves me confused.

Additionally, I test ran my application with a Fedora image from docker hub as well as ran it locally from my Ubuntu machine, both of which seem to run fine. However, it served as a good introduction to docker.

With regards to the backend, while it was highly opinionated, I found it convenient of not having to write too much code and getting everything set up for deployment. This makes rolling out a functioning app seem extremely easy. However, much time was spent reading the documentation as the official blog/guide also includes information that is unnecessary when you just want to get the server up and running. The guide linked in the assignment pdf is for a full introduction not just to the Rails framework but also to how an application works/is built. The Rails api documentation is formatted in an extremely difficult manner to understand for someone with little Ruby experience. As a result, I relied heavily on stackoverflow to understand some of the caveats of Rails.

To end off the write up, this assignment has been extremely beneficial to me personally, as it exposes me to the useful libraries and frameworks that have been adopted for development by companies of different scales. Most importantly, I have a better understanding of my areas for improvement, and how I can proceed forward with the improvements, perhaps at my personal pace.