The idea

This project was an idea that both me and my internship contact at Altibox thought would be a fun challenge. The thought of making an interactive movie database with inspiration from existing ones like the most famous "IMDB" was something I looked forward to getting started with.

Requirements

The requirements from my internship contact were to use external APIs to get already existing movie data in to my relational mysql database. There would be a simple front end that would manage to let the user know what possibilities they had in navigating the application. Also, user specific actions were required, meaning authentication was required.

Delivery

Getting started with the project was a lot of fun. Seeing the database with its relations take form is always motivating knowing that the logic of the tables will soon "handle" itself.

Getting the data into the database on the other hand turned out to be quite the challenge. There were many movieAPIs to choose from, but very few had the option to return lists like "top rated". So I found a raw json file on Github that was public that gave me some titles, I also found another list that had additional movies not ordered by rating. I then had to format the titles to get a stable "title" that I later could query an api with each individual title.

For making the project as scalable as possible I created what I named "apiScript" route, that would take the queried movies and separate each data value like "genres, year, rating, actors, directors etc. and insert them into my tables, later I had to query the movies again to insert both movie and actors/genres to make sure my tables was normalized since movies have several actors, and actors have several movies.

When that data was inserted, I could finally insert the whole movie with its respective keys.

I have met the requirements of a relational database, a functioning frontend, and user Specific action. There are CRUD operations that authenticated users can perform to customize their profiles and leave reviews of movies.

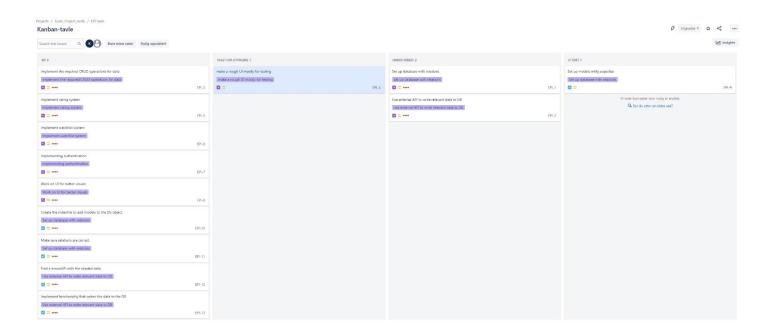
The front end has its flaws, but this project was to display back-end capabilities and not UI or design.

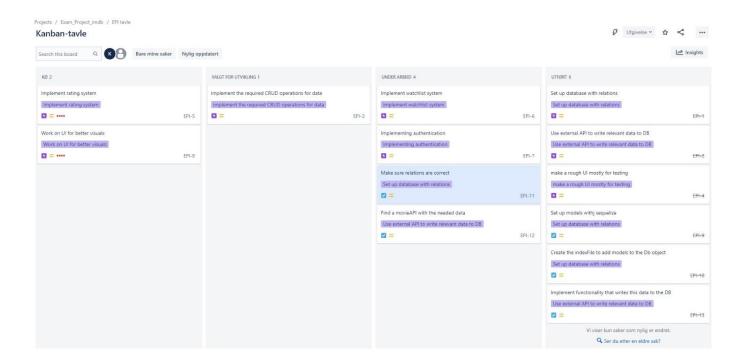
Challenges

As I mentioned getting data formatted so my database is reliable and stable was a challenge, sometimes the api calls would contain "bad" data like missing values or a unregular typing. This caused me to spend a lot of time to pinpoint where I got errors with inserting and setting.

Dealing with a lot of asynchronous functionality and calls made debugging difficult at times, and to query several API's each time the application starts up is a heavy load. But I wanted to keep it this way to showcase that I can handle APIS and process the data. Writing down the data to a json file would of course save a lot of time and memory, but then there would be no need for external API calls, and I wanted to include that process as well in the "finished" product.

I used Jira and made a kanban board so I had an overview of what tasks needed to be done.





Roadmap

