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Post Mortem

In this project, I had multiple struggles I had to overcome to learn and get my application to function. One of those struggles was getting the underlying calculator algorithm to function in all the possible scenarios of user input. Additionally, I was aiming at an infix calculator, which required a conversion to postfix then a calculation of postfix. This made my project a little more difficult and I ended up using a function that works only if parenthesis were included around all operands. Although this solution is not the most optimal, it was the only one that seemed to work 100% of the time with any length of operands and any operators. Another struggle I had was getting my screen to transition from a splash screen into the calculator. This wasn’t part of the project requirements, but I ended up learning how to transition screens and make an interesting application. It also inadvertently helped me understanding changing a view of the application, which is useful for future projects as well. A final struggle I overcame was setting up GitHub within Android Studio. This took me quite a while, but I learned more about what exactly Git and GitHub are and how you can use them most effectively. If I were to talk to a future student about how to succeed on this assignment, my number one tip would be to get a huge head start. This type of class requires experimentation and practice. If I were to wait until the last second, I doubt I would even have a functioning application. Therefore, I would highly recommend to a future student to get the greatest head start they can and additionally not brute force the project all in one session. The most fun part of this assignment was learning the xml and finally working out some of the GitHub stuff. Using xml wasn’t terribly difficult and was cool to see how it effects the presentation of your app. Mostly this assignments difficulty was finding the resources to learn the things I wanted to do with my application.

A suggestion I would have to improve this assignment further, or rather the beginning of the class further is a class period where the whole purpose is to set up GitHub. A previous professor I had back in community college set up private repositories for each student to submit to where student and professor could access them privately. Additionally, the first day of class was dedicated to walking the class through logging into a VMware and setting up an IDE to connect to GitHub so that the class had minimal issues with the IDE, Git, or GitHub. Documents and links were also provided to solve common issues with GitHub and provided the whole walkthrough again. Feedback was privately given to students on each project via the issues tab on the project in GitHub. This could be a good idea anyways because you don’t even need private repositories to open issues and it centralizes the course on GitHub, which is obviously a very important thing to practice given its wide use in CS.