

## CVWO mid-assignment reflection

### App design:

- a todo list that allows you to add tasks, show individual tasks, edit and delete them.
- Each list item consists of title, description, due date and priority values, which can be used for sorting

### Execution plan:

- Create the individual components, piecing them together once each component is done to slowly add functionality to the app.
- Once the CRUD functions are implemented, create the sort function to sort the tasks

### Reflection:

With this todo list being my first time creating an app, I was super lost in where to even start. Only knowing python from CS1010S, I was overwhelmed just looking through the assignment. After a few minutes of 'what in the world is this', I decided to get to work. (Little did I know that I'd be spending minimum 8hrs a day, everyday, till today, trying to absorb new things one after another)

I started off learning basic html, css and javascript, making sure I can at least read code and understand how the code flows. That took me a few days of grinding it out. (thanks 'Programming with Mosh' and 'freeCodeCamp' for the hours of tutorials)

Next, I started reading the rails guide provided, and that was where things took a messy turn. Being the newbie that I am, installing rails and getting to the rails server took 2-3 days, what a nightmare it was... Thinking back, that was probably my first time using Command Prompt to run and install things into my computer. Eventually, localhost:3000 was working, what a sigh of relief!

The rest of the rails guide was basically a marathon. Following steps that I didn't quite understand, picking up words (server, form, routes etc) that I never heard before, heck I even thought 'blog' was a rails term, only to realise it was just the name of the example. The week-long grind made me question my purpose of life as I followed the guide step by step, not knowing where this would lead me.

Finally, my first todo app in ruby on rails completed! By now 2 weeks have passed and I finally managed to create a CRUD app, couldn't feel more relieved. To ensure my understanding, I made a few more similar apps of the same CRUD functionality.

Seeing the bigger picture/end goal really helped as I was more conscious of what I'm coding, being able to differentiate between 'fixed/key words' and variable words. I rewarded myself with a day's break before moving on to React. I laughed at myself seeing the irony that my 'reward' during my holidays is a day's break.

React, another steep learning curve to climb. With python and rails in my wallet of skills, 'It can't be that difficult, right?' I thought. Oh how wrong I was... I started with following react-app guides, similar learning style for rails. However, the insanely many new terms being introduced without explanation threw me off, as I found myself being more confused as each guide did the same thing differently. At this point I was back to 'Existentialism-city' and decided to take a break to preserve my sanity. This was around the fourth day of React, around 15-days since the start.

After the break, I decided to learn react with a different approach. Now I was reading up on separate functionality of react, and then piecing them together. For now, less coding, more understanding. With my enlightened mind, I tried following another app-making guide. This time things were much clearer, and I finally succeeded in making a todo app on React. By then a few more days passed.

Now the last step (sort of), combining Rails and React. Truthfully, this was harder than expected, as with every step forward comes a new set of obstacles. Learning how to connect Rails and React required more thinking and application than before as guides became harder to find due to it being more specific. Long story short, not only was I still lost and without a breakthrough, I was mentally and emotionally drained. Christmas was coming, but my mood was an all-time low.

Breakthroughs sometimes require a certain degree of luck. In my rugged state, my CS friend asked me what I was up to. Thankfully, his past coding experience meant that he knew what to search, thus providing me with the necessary relevant recourses to read up on. This was when everything clicked, and yet again I'm up on my feet with a direction to go. 'It's too early to give up...', I told myself as I gave myself another chance.

This leads to the present, with work still in progress. I'm definitely not the best coder out there, and may even be on the lower end of the spectrum, but it's fine. I'll get there eventually.

Here's a few things I've learnt in this journey so far:

- Learning new things will be hard, but it's a marathon. Keep pushing.
- Balance between seeing the overall picture and understanding the specifics.

- Knowing the correct guides and how to find them is very important, it'll save you days and energy.
- Don't be shy asking more experienced people. They help streamline the learning process.
- Life isn't fair. A few days of progress of experienced individuals may take you weeks, but that's okay. We all start from somewhere. This leads to my last point.
- Don't compare yourself to others (especially the more experienced), it'll bring about needless discouragement. Instead, compare yourself to who you were before. Look at how far you've come.

If you've read up to this point, thank you for your hard work! In whatever struggles that you have, know that you are not alone, for we all have our hardships to face.

All the Best!