Kalbert Mata

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Reflection Journal

This class not only helped me learn more about JavaScript and building mobile applications, but it was also a great way to learn how to work on a team for a long period of time (or at least longer than what I had to work on in other courses) and how to manage time and deadlines. While not everything went smoothly, I learned a lot this semester, specially how to take more control of what I learn and how I apply it.

My team was a great support and I learned a lot from them. We were able to set up a schedule and decide who would teach what and when early on. We were also able to meet and chat on Slack when we had questions. Our first meeting was very long with the presentations, so we decided to post videos of our presentations on Slack, watch them, and then meet to go over the topic and questions. This was very beneficial because I could go back and watch the video again if I needed some review, and meetings were actually for answering questions.

I set up my due dates so I could finish all the topics with a few weeks to spare. I also set them up to send requests for fluency when I had to do presentations, so I could be better prepared for both. I figured the earlier I started working, the more time I would have if I got behind or to spend more time on the final project. I also didn’t like the idea of leaving stuff until the very end, when I didn’t know how long some topics could take. This proved very helpful, because some topics did take longer or needed to be resent, and some weeks I wasn’t able to spend as much researching the topics. Having those extra weeks help me not to panic because I still had time left. So even though a lot of topics where not turned in when I planned, everything was still done in time. This impacted my future planning because I now know to always set up extra time at the end of the project for unforeseen changes. I will always try to meet deadlines, but a little extra time can always be helpful. The highest point of this class was finishing the final project and seeing all the learning come together. It’s one thing to learn all the topics individually, and another to see how everything goes together. It was also really satisfying to thing about other apps and projects I could work on and feel confident I have the knowledge to finish them. The lows in this class were probably during debugging. It’s hard for me to let go and take a break when something doesn’t work, which is counterproductive to actually fixing the code. Another low was when I went out of town. I thought I would be able to get more work done, but I didn’t get to spend as much time researching topics that week, so I got behind an had to spend extra time to catch up the following week, and with other classes, it was pretty busy.

This class changed my approach to learning in the sense that I have a better idea of the steps I need to follow when learning new technology. In other classes we are assigned reading, exercises or specific projects, to guide our learning. In this class though, I learned how to guide the learning myself, from doing research to applying what I’m learning so I can actually implement it by myself. I know now that for me it helps to watch video and tutorials, more than reading. So, when I need to learn something new, I will try to find videos about it first. I also learned I learn more by testing it and debugging, so instead of spending too much time researching, I need to test it out. This gives me confidence that I will be able to learn other things that might be required in the job or to do personal projects.