Michael Palumbo

Tammy Pirmann

June 14, 2019

CI 102/103

CI Reflection

I was always someone who believed that it would be impossible to work on a programming project with a team. At the time, it didn’t make sense, how could multiple people work on the same code without messing something up. When entering CI102 I was skeptical that this team project would work. I always felt confident with my abilities so I thought if I couldn’t do something, no one would be able to—obviously very ego centric. The project that me and a couple friends picked was Facial Recognition, because it sounded cool and I thought I would be forced to learn a lot about Convolutional Neuro Networks, which sounded very interesting. During the project it was made very apparent that programming skills weren’t enough. This led me to the epiphany that made me realize programming projects aren’t all about programming itself, and some of it is team management or researcher. The project slowly turned into something I was interested into something I’m not. We realized we wanted to put the recognition program online, and record attendance, and to do so, we would need a back-end database, which I found myself and another kid named Steven doing. Some key features that I took away from this class was the idea that programming projects can indeed be done in a group, and that people can work quite efficiently if not more efficiently in groups.

As mentioned, I worked on back-end with my friend Steven. Since we also wanted to put a python program on our website our TA encouraged us to use a framework called “Django,” which is a programming framework that neither of us had used. We had also never used a framework in general, so we weren’t aware of how many files and scripts you have to keep track of. Using Django itself was not a very fun experience; it felt like building a small sandcastle with a forklift. Our project wasn’t aimed to be that big, so we didn’t need such a big framework to use. But it had already been weeks in, and we felt like sticking with the framework anyhow. But thanks to that experience I now somewhat know how Django works, and given another shot I believe we could have gotten much further in the project. I had also learned how databases work, how to manage them, and how Django manages them.

Overall, I feel like the freshman project is a good idea, but there are little things that I didn’t think are done well. For instance, during CI 103 we virtually couldn’t work on our project till week four cause our TA told us he was going to send us links on Django and how to log on to the sandbox server, but waited 4 weeks in to actually send us stuff. Of course, that isn’t necessarily a huge complaint, but when thinking about things that annoyed me, that was one of them. I also felt like in CI 102 all the assignments we did, we didn’t use at all during CI 103, which felt like we could have achieved more if we weren’t so distracted with the assignments. I really like the idea of the freshman project, but I just wished it was the sophomore project instead. I feel like as freshman, we have only taken the beginner courses and when told to make a huge project people come to a roadblock, since they just can’t understand what they have to do. But that being said, I thought it was a pretty cool and unique course that I’ll remember for ages to come.