4-1 JOURNAL

4-1 Journal: Career Choice and Artifact Update

CS-499-12473-M01 Computer Science Capstone 2024 C-5 (Sept-Oct)

Michael Zietz

Southern New Hampshire University

Sept 22, 2024

* Have you changed your career plans? If so, what prompted this change? If not, why have you remained with your original plan?

My career plans at this point have always been a fluid scheme on purpose. I suffer and struggle with extreme anxiety, so the mindset I have adopted to get me through each day is to focus on taking it a day at a time. I’ve always been terrified to make a firm plan for the future because so much is subject to change and plans rarely end up how I have desired them to. I have always planned my career to exist within the computer science hemisphere because I’ve always enjoyed problem solving and spend most of my time in a computer environment, but I’ve struggled finding my exact niche in CS. I originally worked as an IT technician and troubleshooted remotely and physically on hardware and software, and I also took on administrative responsibilities like record keeping, dispatching, managing, maintenance, and

* How has your thinking about your career evolved?

My time at SNHU has taught me to trust myself and my skills more, and that I am only limited by my self-perception and desire to learn. While the latter may come more naturally to me, I still work on not allowing imposter syndrome from holding me back from setting myself up for success. When it comes to my career, I look at all options and possibilities available to me before making decisions. I try to separate how I perceive I want my career to be from the doors that are in front of me. Opening myself to new opportunities, like how I did by returning to school at SNHU, can lead to totally new paths that would have been unexplored had I kept that narrow perspective. Now I evaluate based on my current resources and the skill set I currently possess and what skills I am looking to cultivate.

* Have you completed any research about your choice of career? How has this impacted your thinking? Have you thought about seeking an advanced degree or certification after earning your undergraduate degree?

I’ve researched a multitude of careers, ranging from IT to software engineering and even architecture. I really enjoy collecting and improving upon a wide range of skills but have yet to concentrate my entire focus in a specific area because I have not found an area that resonates with me yet, and dislike closing doors to what could be enriching pursuits. It is because of this mindset that I am currently applying to a position as an Associate System Administrator specifically for Office 365 messaging systems. The reason I am pursuing this position is because I managed Office 365 admin accounts for businesses in the past, and this brings my software engineering and technical problem-solving skills into play. They have positions in SDLC at the company but are not hiring currently, so this could be an optimal steppingstone for me. I’m very interested in completing a master’s degree in computer science after achieving my bachelor’s.

* Which course outcomes have you achieved so far, and which ones remain?

In my artifact’s current state, post enhancements, I have achieved the following course outcomes successfully:

* Employ strategies for building collaborative environments that enable diverse audiences to support organizational decision-making in the field of computer science.
* Design, develop, and deliver professional-quality oral, written, and visual communications that are coherent, technically sound, and appropriately adapted to specific audiences and contexts.
* Design and evaluate computing solutions that solve a given problem using algorithmic principles and computer science practices and standards appropriate to its solution while managing the trade-offs involved in design choices.
* Develop a security mindset that anticipates adversarial exploits in software architecture and designs to expose potential vulnerabilities, mitigate design flaws, and ensure privacy and enhanced security of data and resources.

The enhancements I have left to incorporate into my artifacts are as follows:

* Demonstrate an ability to use well-founded and innovative techniques, skills, and tools in computing practices for the purpose of implementing computer solutions that deliver value and accomplish industry-specific goals.

Unfortunately, I was without internet access this week for Monday and Tuesday which put me behind on my schedule for completing enhancements, but I was able to accomplish all that I had intended for artifact two. I still need to revisit artifact one, but I have a plan of action for fixing known errors. Also, my Travlr Getaways artifact, zipped up, is still too large to be hosted on GitHub, so that is why it is not currently submitted in the chart below. How else should I go about truncating it?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Checkpoint** | **Software Design**  **and Engineering** | **Algorithms and Data Structures** | **Databases** |
| **Name of Artifact Used** | Relentless Heroes | Travlr Getaways | Grazioso Salvare Animal Rescue |
| **Status of Initial Enhancement** | Submitted | Submitted | Not completed |
| **Submission Status** | Near Completion | Submitted | Not completed |
| **Status of Final Enhancement** | Near Completion | Completed | Not completed |
| **Uploaded to ePortfolio** | Not completed | Too large (85mb) | Not completed |
| **Status of Finalized ePortfolio** | Not completed | Not completed | Not completed |