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Blog

Contents

[1. Basic Information 2](#_Toc15318300)

[2. Results achieved 2](#_Toc15318301)

[3. Work Progress 2](#_Toc15318302)

[4. Schedule Status 3](#_Toc15318303)

[5. Encountered Problems and Solutions 3](#_Toc15318304)

[6. Costs 3](#_Toc15318305)

[7. Deviations from the Plan 4](#_Toc15318306)

[8. Resources used 4](#_Toc15318307)

[9. The Experience 4](#_Toc15318308)

# Basic Information

The project, which is to create a blog, will be done as part of a school course. I plan to make a blog that fits the theme it is going for and my personality.

After experimenting with Java and JSP, I decided to use the Angular JavaScript framework to make my blog.

Over the course of many hours and watching a lot of tutorials, I created a functioning blog with a register/login feature and dynamic blog posts and reviews using Angular.js and mongodb as the database.

# Results achieved

The finished blog comes pretty close to what I set as my goals.

I wanted a register and login features and a way for the admin to add blog posts and reviews directly from the blog to the database. Using Angular as my frontend, an express server with mongoose as my backend and mongodb in my database I was able to achieve this.

On the blog, you can find a frontpage, photo and video gallery, the blog posts and reviews, a contact page with myself listed as the admin and author and two other fictional users as authors and a login and register page.

With a loggedAdmin() function I was able to specify that only the admin is allowed to use specific features, like adding blog posts, images or videos.

In the end I hosted my backend on Heroku. However, due to some problems with npm, I wasn’t able to host my frontend on Heroku, but luckily I managed to host my frontend on firebase and still keep my frontend and backend connected through the links.

# Work Progress

I ran into many problems while working on the blog.

The development of the HTML and CSS was relatively easy, but the first bigger problems started to arise, when thinking about the database and how to connect it and so on.

Thanks to a lot of research online, I was able to always find out how to fix my errors and make the blog work.

The biggest problem did arise at the very last step of the project, the hosting.

I first tried out Heroku and after deploying my backend successfully to Heroku, I tried my best to deploy my Angular app on Heroku too.

However, I wasn’t able to do so, even after trying for hours and hours.

In the end I decided to try another hosting provider for my frontend, and I chose firebase.

Luckily, everything worked, and my two servers are still connected and fully functionable.

# Schedule Status

The project is definitely on schedule. I even finished the blog itself a day before I planned to, which was very good, because the hosting made some problems and it cost me a bit more time to host it properly.

However, because I was so good in time, the longer time that I needed for the hosting didn’t cause any problems.

The blog is completely finished and up and running online, as of the end date of the project.

# Encountered Problems and Solutions

At first, I tried to make the project in the Java language, which took me about a week of experimenting to realize that this would be much harder than I assumed.

JSP seems like an older programming language, which resulted in there not being as much material to learn about it online.

I usually work with a lot of research from the internet, so then I thought which tool would I find most online material for and then I decided to do the blog in the Angular.js JavaScript framework.

From that point everything went really well for a long time and I got almost all of the frontend finished.

Then I came to the point where I needed a database for my blog posts, reviews and images. I researched a lot about how to use SQL with JavaScript, but in the end decided to go for mongodb.

While working with mongodb, I ran into quite a few problems that took me some hours to resolve, but what was very helpful is that there were a lot of tutorials, answers and threads online that dealt with the exact problems that I had. So, with enough research, all of those problems were solved.

The biggest problem, however, came along at the end, when I wanted to host the website. Thankfully, I had quite a bit of time left to research hosting properly and I at first tried to host both of my servers, frontend and backend, on Heroku. After a bit of trying I managed to get the backend server running on Heroku, but the frontend Angular app cost me a lot of hours of trial and error to get it running on Heroku.

After countless hours of trying with Heroku, I simply wasn’t able to figure out the error, so I decided to try to host my frontend on another hosting service. Firebase was my choice. In the end, I pretty easily managed to get my frontend deployed to Firebase.

# Costs

I ended up using the free tiers of Heroku and Firebase, so I didn’t have any costs.

# Deviations from the Plan

There were no deviations from the plan, the blog was finished on the 26th, like I planned.

And at the last few days, I had enough time to see how to host my blog.

# Resources used

I planned that I would need 81 hours to finish the project.

However, it took me 95 hours, which is quite a bit more, but I still finished the project fully within the time given.

To see a full detailed overview over how I spent the hours, please look at the tuntilista.

# The Experience

The project and schedule were pretty much well planned, there were no deviations at all, which honestly surprised me, because projects rarely go this smooth.

Personally, I am very happy with the end result of how the blog looks, of how good it works and of how much I learned.

The hosting took a bit more time than planned, but that was no problem, because the blog itself was finished ahead of the planned time.

The only bigger mistake was that I didn’t inform myself much of the databases beforehand, which resulted in having to do quite a bit of research during the project time.

Although that was a little unfortunate, it didn’t cause any big problems.

The hosting was, as described, also a problem and in the future, I would love to have both, my backend and my frontend server, running on the same hosting provider.

The project as a whole was a success for me, because the end result is very much what I wanted and I got it all done in time.