Peter Moldenhauer
moldenhp@oregonstate.edu
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CS 290 – Web Development

Activity: Practice!

Throughout my time reviewing the new content and lecture videos for this week, there have been multiple times in which I felt utterly confused. I feel like there is so much material (which is good, don't get me wrong!) in this week's module I felt very overwhelmed. I have no prior web development experience so all of this material is completely new to me. I find myself needing to re-watch each of the lecture videos multiple times before I can start to somewhat understand what is going on.

One of the biggest issues that I had difficulty with this week has been trying to trace through nested callback functions. It is confusing to me to wrap my mind around callbacks within callbacks – especially when the order of which makes a big difference (such as when you need to render the HTML page). Honestly, I don't think I officially "solved" this issue of struggling to understand all of these nested functions. I can say however that after watching a few of the lecture videos over and over again I am slowly starting to get it. Each time I re-watch one of the lecture videos, I pick up on something that I missed before. I think a lot of this has to do with my lack of experience in web development and this is something I need to simply practice more to get better at.

The final "organization" lecture video is what really got things to start clicking for me. I understand why this video was at the end of the week's module content but I wish I watched it earlier. Simply naming the various callback functions and putting them on their own lines really cleared some things up for me. This "organization" lecture video also helped me understand another issue I was having this week. This is not a huge issue but I was initially confused as to how to incorporate CSS into the templates. The discussion about the static files and where to put CSS files was really helpful to me.

Lastly, learning about all of the different modules all at once was tough for me. I am still having a hard time grasping what each specific module does, where a specific module goes and the correct syntax to go about using a specific module. While the lecture videos were useful, it seemed like they were a little too fast paced for my level of experience with everything here so I resorted to YouTube for a lot of clarification. I learn well from looking at a lot of different examples and then putting together the pieces of all the different examples of everything that I have seen.

Overall, to check my understanding of the various topics listed in the description, I re-watched each of the lecture videos multiple times and made an attempt to complete each of the "activities" on each page. The more I watch the lecture videos (and other misc. YouTube videos) along with doing the implementation myself, the more comfortable I am starting to feel with these concepts. Just like anything else, the more you practice something, the better you will become at it. I just need to keep practicing.