Project Update Two

LEARNING NODE.JS

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Inside this document, I will go over what I have covered between the first meeting and this meeting, the challenges that I encountered, and how I overcame them.

During this period, I had planned to learn more about Node.JS as a whole, about its modular capabilities. Which makes it lighter to deploy, and faster to run, as well as easier to implement. In seeking more answers, I have discovered the MEAN stack. This is a MongoDB, Express Angular and Node.JS stack. The MongoDB is where everything is stored, such as chat history, logins, usernames, etc. Express I have discovered is the controller or communicator between Node.JS and the database. Angular is the front end, and finally, Node is the backend. Together these are currently leading the industry standard, which I did not know until I researched them. They are all JavaScript based, making the MEAN stack a whole JavaScript run application.

An issue I mentioned last meeting was the scope of my original project, and trying to understand Node a little better. I understand it a bit better, for example, I know how the modules interact with each other, and how the syntax differs between them. I have only dabbled in Redis, Express.io, Socket.io, Scotch, and vanilla Node. As for the scope, I have addressed this by switching the project to one that utilizes the asynchronous event driven capabilities of the MEAN stack. I was able to address these issues with a suitable amount of research which is ongoing, as well as I had received notes from Sean Morrow's past classes on the subject. I also did more courses on Plural Sight and Code School on the subjects.

The main challenges I encountered during this period was trying to find which modules to use, and how to develop my chat room further. I started out using socket.io and express, as they were what I was introduced to when I first started learning Node. But as time went on, I realized that I wanted a bit more from my application. I tried using a module called scotch which went well, but wasn't exactly what I was looking for. I have been trying to do the A of the MEAN stack, but Angular is another language, and not quite a module, so that has been a challenge as well. Thankfully, we are roughly touching on it in one of Sean's classes. Just a brief overview, which is helping me understand it better. I have been overcoming these challenges by researching solutions on various sites, such as GitHub, Stack Overflow, and the forums for Code School and Plural Sight. The forums help because if I am really stuck on something I can find a thread where someone has had a similar issue, and ask questions.

My work flow has been consistent throughout the week. I work Wednesday afternoons from 12-5, and then most of Thursday as well. Usually from 10 until 5. Which works out to about 12 hours a week, on average. Sometimes I work on it a little longer, such as a couple hours on the weekend, or a couple extra hours through the week if I come up with something else to add, or think of something else to research.