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W0293942

Progress meeting 1

Self-Directed Study

In this document, I will go over what I had set out to do up to date, what I have accomplished, how I got there, and the documentation to date recording that. Furthermore, I will talk about my challenges, the amendment to my original plan, and how many hours I have worked thus far on my self directed.

Firstly, I had set out for the first 3-4 week to finish a code school program, and to begin on my first small project. I have accomplished this, though it took me longer than expected. I outlined in my weekly documentation that I first had issues with the software I was using. The software I originally used (Brackets) did not fully support my self-directed study of Node.JS. I had to switch to using Visual Studio Code, and set it up to work with Node. Not only that, but I had to use command line to install a few extensions to make Node.JS work properly, which not only put me behind, but had me stressed out about time. The second week went much better in that I was able to adjust and give myself more time to focus on my self-directed. I had noticed that I had taken several hours longer than expected to do the Code School course. This was due to note taking, and having to rewind the videos and re-watch them to understand what the instructors were trying to portray.

Some challenges I had throughout have been time management. Specifically; not estimating effectively how long it would take to not only learn the language but also to apply it. This coupled with taking on a project that will likely be too large in scope and difficult for my level of knowledge for the topic I have chosen. Which brings me to my amendment of my original plan. Instead of writing a large guestbook application, I have chosen to write a simple chatroom application. This will focus on what I have learned to date in the course. The course showed me the basics of what to do for a chat room style application, and I would like to expand it. What was covered were how to send the message to the server, how to retrieve the message sent, and how to display them. What I would expand on is showing the history of the chat, storing the history of the chat, having multiple conversations instead of one large group chat, and a search function to be able to search for a specific person or chat. This will not go outside of the scope of what I have learned to date, and reinforce what I have learned before moving on to my next step.

To date I have spent approximately between 20-22 hours of work a week on the subject. Between getting the applications to work, understanding the new content, watching the videos, documenting my progress, and researching explanations of the provided material for clarification. Based on this I have allotted more time in the coming weeks to focus more on self-directed. This way I will not fall behind like I did in the first week.

Based on my outline, and based on what I have accomplished. Meaning I covered the entire course as I stated, I started on my first project, but failed to get as far as I had planned, and fell behind on timings. If I were to give myself a score out of 20 I would give myself a 17. I say this because I did get done what I intended, but it took much longer than expected, I didn’t plan it properly, and I have to amend my original plan in response to this realization. I did however do well in the challenges provided to me, go above and beyond, even setting up a repository in GitHub, which I did not outline originally, and came up with a new project idea which would appropriately fit in scope to what I have learned to date.