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Self-Directed Proposal

Node.JS

For my self-directed, I would like to do Node JS. I would like to learn how to use Node JS effectively because I wish to get hired by IBM, and that is what they use. I will be using a couple courses on code school to help get me started, as well as w3schools. I plan on doing two projects along the way to make sure I have a good hold on it. The first of which will be a simple application that will display my basic understanding with both functionality and design of Node JS, which will be a simple Guestbook application. The second will be the main project and this will be that which will require a great understanding of everything learned from the course thus far, plus what I will learn from researching, troubleshooting, and implementing while using Node JS. In the final project, I will use a virtual server which I will host myself, a front end and backend, and possibly an admin side. This will all require great planning a tight deadline in the planning process. This final project will be a Photo Gallery Application, which could be used for weddings, or special events to showcase special moments.

Some advantages I have taking this self-directed is that I have experience coding already, and am familiar with the process of teaching yourself new things. I am very good at being able to research content and to be able to learn from it as well as can apply it in different situations. Currently I have a resource that other students may not have, and that is a faculty. Sean Morrow has past lessons that he doesn’t teach anymore that I have requested to look over. This will give me an alternate perspective on how someone else would think for problems and situations. It will also provide me with a tool that I can utilize, such as asking questions if I get stuck on an issue.

What I should try to avoid during this self-directed study is time management. Meaning I should consistently use the time I have slotted for just my self-directed studies and no other course work. This will provide me with a better chance at success. One thing people may see as my weakness for this course is that I have a family and children. Children place the course at risk because of unknown factors such as their schools snow days, higher chance of getting sick, as well as possible other emergencies that come up with having children.

But for me I see this as an opportunity. As if my child is sick, and I can’t make it to class for example, then I can still work on my self-directed from home. I can use the time positively to refocus on the work at hand. I also have a very supportive wife and family which can help look after my children so I can focus on my work.

My current goal is to be able to code in Node.JS as well as I do in Java or better. I want to be able to understand Node.JS so I can be an effective team member as well as demonstrate this to possible employers. To my knowledge this is one of the most used software and is used by my targeted employer. For me to be able to achieve my goal I must be able to fully code and provide full functionality to my final project. To measure this, I will have others test it, and make sure nothing crashes, including, but not limited to other developers, peers, and faculty. I know this will be achievable if I stay on my schedule. Which is listed below. A weekly document will be filled out to showcase the roadblocks, thoughts, conclusions, successes, and issues, answers to issues, as well as anything else that may come up during the week of work. This will be to serve as official documentation to track progress, and to ensure the content is continually moving forward.

Week 1: Prepare Draft Proposal – **2.5%**

Week 2: Prepare Final Proposal – **2.5%**

Week 3: code school Real Time Web with Node.JS chapters 1 – 4

Week 4: code school Real Time Web with Node.JS chapters 5 -7

Week 5: Project 1

Week 6: Progress report meeting, make appointment with Sean Morrow for previous course material, research possible solutions for final project.

Week 7: Meeting with Sean Morrow for previous course material as well as planning for the final project.

Week 8: Code front end of Project

Week 9: Code back end of Project

Week 10: Progress report meeting, testing front and back end functionality

Week 11: Fix bugs and test

Week 12: Black Box testing, while taking notes on what users do.

Week 13: Implement changes from results from the black box testing

Week 14: Final touches, refining. Final Report meeting, Project 2 complete.

Project I – **25%** of final mark, Project II – **30%** of final mark, Documentation for course– **30%**, feedback and marks from instructors/peers (Meetings and testing) - **15%**  
The Projects will be broken down as follows, and are marked out of 30:   
- Database diagram **-2pts**  
- Database is well labeled and easy to read **-1pt**  
- Front end is responsive, and user friendly **-2pts**  
- Front end code is well structured **-1pts**  
- Front end has full functionality, no errors, proper error handling -**7pts**  
- Back end is well structured, code is clean, and easily understood **-1pts**  
- Admin login page (Secure, and handled properly. Proper database handling) **-2pts**  
- Editing capability on public end (Adding/removing media, and handling appropriate file sizes/types) **-8pts  
-** Weekly updated checklist correlates with the work completed (work is well documented, processes shown and explained and correlates with the timeline given) **-5pts  
-** Code commented **-1pt**

In conclusion, I believe that doing Node.JS as my self directed both is the best choice for my future career and my personal development. I believe that I have all the supports I require, as well as all the determination to do this effectively and efficiently. I have minimal road blocks to do this, and have plenty of material to draw from to assist in my learning process. As well as a well laid out plan, with time slotted to work on it accordingly.