Project Reflection

Azure Cognitive Services are an incredibly powerful tool, but they update in the real world at a very quick pace. Many aspects of this project were not up to date with the real world state of the tools. As such, I became very frustrated over time with how the project went. I ended up spending over 150 hours trying to navigate various parts of this project. The estimate was 5 hours. That is inconceivably differing in my expectations.

One specific example was setting up the proper Face service. I was getting so many different errors, and I tried many different steps and combinations on my own. I used my own personal Azure account, the Azure account for my workplace (the whole reason I was taking this Enterprise Nanodegree in the first place) and the provided labs and notebooks. There were so many variables that had to change with these set ups and nothing worked the correct way the first time. I learned more about troubleshooting Azure than I did with these Azure services. It turned out that the correct fix for the Face Service was to specifically use East US 2, instead of just East US as I was doing.

Overall I feel like I learned a lot about the power of Azure through this course. The high level understanding and use cases are still quite beneficial to me. The actual application of the provided demos did not always work as expected. I would have gotten more out of the course if it was a 4 hour live session with demos to watch.