James Hippler
CS 290-400
hipplerj@oregonstate.edu
ONID# 932807333

Activity: Practice!

Deliverables:

Submit a PDF. In that PDF discuss in 2 or 3 paragraphs what you had the most difficulty with, what problems it was giving you and what steps you took to fix it. Also briefly describe how you checked your understanding of the above listed topics. What types of things did you do? What Services did you use?

Hardest Concepts:

By far, the hardest concept for me to understand this module (and this term in general) has been asynchronous programming. It's an area that I struggled with even when we first attempted to implement it in our programs several weeks ago. It's not that the code is hard, it's just difficult for me to wrap my head around what all is happening in the execution of my program and exactly when it's occurring. Adding nested asynchronous requests did help matters, but it was beneficial to learn that we could break things out in separate, single level functions that could either be stored in the static directory or called immediately in our main javascript program.

Honestly, I think what confused me most about the nested asynchronous execution was the original program from this module. All of the calls were made immediately to anonymous functions as arguments. Something about reading that long string of nest code made it hard for me to conceptualize what was actually happening and why. Plus the concept of creating and fixing closures is still somewhat of a weakness for me. As mentioned before, breaking things into individual, compartmentalized, sections was a blessing. Also, like everything else, to get better I just keep practicing the implementation by using both the static file method and separate functions (Practice makes perfect).

Verify Understanding:

I'm, admittedly, not very creative. To test my understanding of this week's topics, I simply tried my hand at the recommended mini project mentioned in this Activity summary. While taking this class, I've been simultaneously studying the Udemy Web Development Bootcamp course for added exposure. We learned to create a todo list from the front-end browser side, but it was cool to see (almost) the same actions performed by the server. An added benefit was it allowed me to tinker with most, if not all of the topics from this week. I still need to work on writing all the boilerplate setup code without using the lecture notes as reference, but hey, we're making progress in the right direction.