CS Senior Design

September 15, 2019

Brian Rutherford

Assignment #3

From an academic approach, this project is really aimed to push our programming knowledge further. We have gained a foundation from the C++ assignments we have completed, and while it is a relevant language, it isn't the end all say all. This will also give us exposure to a pretty new industry tool developed by a huge leader, Facebook. For me, this will be pushing my learning a lot further than I've been pushed academically speaking. I've never been a huge programmer and a lot of the school work I've been assigned hasn't really gotten me extremely excited to do. I think one thing that this project will succeed at is teaching me the language/framework in an environment where I actually care about the outcome, instead of caring about the grade. I won't be doing this for the sheer fact of doing it to pass, I actually will enjoy it and have vested interest in the project.

Like I had mentioned before, college really gave me a baseline understanding of programming. Understanding the Object Oriented principles during CS1 was one of the fundamental learning objectives for any programmer. Data Structures was another fundamental class, but for me, it bled into an area that I'm not super interested in: algorithms. While I understand that it is important to know, I'm just personally not a fan of the content and don't see myself anywhere near the field upon graduation. I've loved a lot of the "grey area" that comes from the technology-business fusion. Things like development styles (waterfall, agile, etc.) to reporting and forecasting time and effort based on development teams. Unfortunately, there haven't been a ton of opportunity to explore this area while in this specific degree.

As far as my co-ops, this is where my non-technical skills really developed. My time at Worldpay really helped me grow professionally. I had a minor development role which helped with some technical experience, but mostly it has been soft skills within the technology world. Things like strategy, operating model creation, project management practices, and public speaking to name a few. The main position that stands out the most was when I was the Program Manager for the Technology Internship program. This helped me stay very organized, deal with a lot of unique challenges that varied day to day, and I got the ability to have a manger-esque position very early in my career. The experience I've gained have been nothing short of amazing.

Before we start the project, I have had some high level ideas about it. My motivations and excitement are a lot more from my personal biases. I love coffee and have been looking for an app like this one; a one stop shop for someone who loves coffee and is versed, but also accommodating to the non-coffee drinker. I want to incorporate a lot into it, but I think that could cause too many goals for us to complete from the technology standpoint. Form a project management standpoint, I think that there is a lot of things to prioritize and solution out – that's what excites me the most. On top of that, I am excited and ready to learn more about the framework we're going to be using.

Some initial solutions I think we could be looking at implementing would be ReactNative or the app/framework, SQL for our database of shops, Trello for a Kanban board of user-stories, and git as out repository source. I imagine the interface being a list of roasters in the area that can then expand

into a map of locations nearby. Each roaster will have their own page and info about them, along with a list of the shops. On top of that, there will be a drink explainer page where you can read about drink types to understand what you order before you get to the counter. The last thing I would want to implement would be a tasting log for you to track your coffee. This would be a great way for someone to taste different roasts and remember what they taste. I think if all of those features work, then I would feel accomplished in what we create.