Reflection

What I built:

I built a simple API designed to bridge our skills developed in the previous year to the learning outcomes we’ll be covering in this – our second year. This little project was intended to introduce me to new development technologies and to allow me to explore more of the avenues I might take on as a growing software developer.

Structure:

I tried to keep it simple structurally, and so the code itself is straightforward enough in looking at that it might pass for pseudocode upon first glance. This kept things easy, and as the technology is new to me, I didn’t want it to get so complicated that I would end up rabbit-holing down endless avenues of investigation. I decided on Python for my application purely because I felt the learning materials were more numerous, and I chose render as my hosting platform because I felt that it was the most approachable for me, and seemed to generate more – and more recent – results on YouTube for deployment guides.

Challenges:

The most challenging thing about this for me was the documentation. This project introduced several new types of documentation to me, and rigorous investigation was needed for me to separate them as my default thinking was to combine them into a single document. Learning their individual points of address, however, helped in seeing how to separate them, and the merits of having them stand on their own. That said, they are likely far from perfect, and my understanding is at the time of writing this, surface level at best.

Strengths:

Though I chose Python, another new technology to me, I found the concepts easy to grasp, and the structure of the API itself didn’t appear too dissimilar to the assignments I had last year. It was reassuring, to say the least, to see the foundations laid in place from the previous year come to aid me as I explored something alien.

Going Forward:

If I were to do this again, adding security features, weather it’s user verification, or token verification are things that I would be interested in implementing. Also, I might explore having a separate database attached to it, rather than having the information hardcoded in. That made grasping the fundamentals easier, though I can see how limiting it might become in the future.

Summary:

I enjoyed the project, and the majority of it surprised me with how approachable it was in the end. I learned some new things, and discovered some new territory that will certainly enrich my experience as I continue to grow.