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CS290 – Web Development

Activity: Practice!

Reflection

I first started this assignment close to the beginning of the week and was having a very rough time with it. The statement, “*you are going to break a lot of things*” was very true. I did all the reading and watched the video lectures before going into the assignment itself. Initially, I attempted to create a session, which I was successful in doing. But when I went any further than this and tried to update different kinds of data to sessions, end sessions, and make requests with GET and POSTS, nothing was working. So I decided to work on the Project assignment instead and clear my head. This was a good idea; I was trying to do too many things at once.

After completing the Final Project, I revisited this Activity assignment and had much better success. Instead of going through all the materials and then attempting to tackle everything at once, I did it in chunks. I read through the material and learned how to start a session. Check. I then followed along on using sessions with HTTP requests and POSTs. I used the HTML and Handlebars templates provided, but made a rule that I was not allowed to use any of the javascript from the lectures or the files provided. I then went about re-creating the example assignments.

As wrote each route, I got better at understanding the flow of how sessions are handled. It became repetitive using `req.session.variableName` to retrieve the information that I needed and assign it to the current context. I tested creating sessions and displaying the information saved between different pages, and handling asynchronous calls.

The biggest problems that I encountered had to do with syntax and order. Many were little bugs that I had to spend time to figure out. Others were logic errors based on when I would assign variables or call certain functions. I was able to overcome these issues by slowing down considerably, and getting a handle on the **basics** first. Overall, I think that the experience of working through this assignment and debugging the issues I had have helped me learn how to handle sessions, asynchronous calls, and JavaScript better.