CS 499 Milestone Four

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* **Briefly describe the artifact. What is it? When was it created?**

This particular artifact was created approximately six months ago when I took a class on database and database management. This particular project utilizes python along with mongo DB in an effort to display filtered animal information based on user’s needs. In this particular instance the program was being created for a company called Grazioso Salvare which finds and adopts animals to train for various purposes. This particular project contained data for a myriad of different animal types but dogs were the focus for the project. This data could be sorted based on breed, color, type etc but buttons were also built in that would auto sort for specific animals that were considered to be premier rescue animals as per the project guidelines. This project would also utilize the data within the database to display a map and pie chart for the data. The main purpose of the project was to create a program for Grazioso Salvare that could utilize shelter data in an effort to easily look for and obtain shelter animals that would be great at rescue training.

* **Justify the inclusion of the artifact in your ePortfolio. Why did you select this item? What specific components of the artifact showcase your skills and abilities in software development? How was the artifact improved?**

While I without a doubt struggled on this project, I felt it was one that could showcase my ability to comprehend a multitude of concepts such as python, mongo DB, the use of databases and dash components, integration of charted data, basic CRUD operation and implementation as well as security features associated with mongo DB and database management. There were a few problems with this project that should be fixed prior to the final weeks’ submission which include an issue with the radio buttons not properly sorting data and a lack of commenting and code organization along with a lack of readme file. My goal here is to fix these buttons, ensure quality code that is well documented and easily understood and perhaps also make the final product look a bit more appealing.

* **Did you meet the course objectives you planned to meet with this enhancement in Module One? Do you have any updates to your outcome-coverage plans?**

I’m quite frankly a bit behind on the objectives that were set forth for this project. I was able to finish organizing and commenting the code but I still need a readme file and to correctly debug the radio buttons so that they correctly show filtered dogs based on the company’s needs. Overall, though, the project is starting to come together but It is far from over for this project as no one seems to understand the concept of dash and I’m struggling to find proper documentation to rectify the issues that currently exist within the program. I will continue to read through the dash documentation in an effort to debug my radio buttons and hopefully get this program functioning in a proper manner.

* **Reflect on the process of enhancing and/or modifying the artifact. What did you learn as you were creating it and improving it? What challenges did you face?**

Even though the code was written by me and it was fairly organized, it was quite the pain to go back and comment every code block and actually hindered me from looking for or discovering any potential flaws or weakness in the code due to being preoccupied with that feat. That being said I was able to get the code organized and commented in a manner that I believe to be compliant with coding ethics and in a manner that is appealing to the eye which greatly improved my process in looking for errors. With regard to what I have learned; It’s important to start with best coding practices! Don’t just do whatever and then go back and try to make everything look better at the end you are just making more work for yourself and it can lead to aberrant behavior of code as well as other issues. I’m still a novice to coding in general but I would say that comments could be one of the most important aspects of the code. Needless to say, I will never forget the proper coding practices and will continue to build upon them. This project was a particular challenge because of the addition of the dash component. I have never heard of dash and apparently the 30 plus tutors I had talked with when trying to complete this assignment had never heard of it either which created additional hiccups along the way. I’m still trying to follow the dash documentation and learn the syntax so that I can get the radio buttons working to filter the data in a correct manner.