

New Knowledge and Skills Acquired – Ethan Wuitschick

Before taking on this project, I had no experience with building applications in Javascript and had only touched purely backend languages and applications. PhiQuest's needs required me to learn Javascript with React, which I primarily did through YouTube videos, advising from PhiQuest staff, and demonstrations from Allen Cheng. I had previously worked in HTML5/CSS3 and had a lot of experience in SQL languages, but I still managed to feel severely out of depth when I first worked with routing, POST requests, and the stages of development, staging, and deployment. The project additionally worked heavily in the Git version control standard. This wasn't a new experience for me, but the conflicts and style of collaboration between our team and PhiQuest's development team taught me a lot about collaborative project work. One piece of knowledge that I cannot qualify is the knowledge that came with a server failure from PhiQuest. Their version control server went down and the team failed to recover the server's contents, disrupting our work and collaboration for a period of two and a half weeks. This forced us to adapt our work style and revert to several-week old commits that lost some progress. I think I've learned the value of redundancy in backups and preparation for unforeseen losses, something that I feel would only come from an experience like this. Overall, I feel that I'm leaving this project a better team member, collaborator, and leader.