

WIKI RETROSPECTIVE

Mario Macias <memacias@google.com> Dustyn Loyda <dloyda@google.com>

Alexandro Fernandez <alexandrof@google.com>

Target audience

Computer Science students or students interested in a similar field who are being presented to the functionality of Flask or website building through python. The goal is to have the students be able to fully deploy a navigable wiki site that contains CSS/HTML styling. This project will allow students to gain a better understanding of flask and its components along with showing them how formatting using Jinja2 and styling from either HTML5 or a CSS stylesheet can bring together a decent looking website. Students may have issues visualizing how routing using flask works and as to how Jinja2 works when trying to build a page using HTML tools.

Timeline

- Connect Using flask
- HTTPS protocols
- App routing
 - Took a bit of tinkering to get the routing working
- Jinja templating
 - Had a learning curve in regards to learning jinja .
- PRD creation
- Design Doc
 - Struggled with styling features and going in depth about the project.
- Merge requesting
- Editing Function
 - Required extra communication with the other team, which extended timeline
- Content Sourcing
- REST API
- HTML/CSS styling
- License
- Finalizing Touches
- Retrospective
- Presentation Planning

Overall the time management for each task was organized well. Most work was done during meetings with our project coach. The only task that provided extensions to the original plan was merge requests from the other project group.

What went well

Overall the group's mindset was in the same place, everyone had the same goals and we came to a consensus on development decisions for our wiki. Our group chat was very useful, almost daily we kept track of what needed to be done and we assisted each other remotely even outside of meetings. 2 meetings a week were scheduled with our project mentor Peter, these meetings were of great use! Our mentor gave us feedback on our project and answered any questions we might have at the time. While our time with our mentor would come to a close, usually as a group we stayed behind to complete our project milestones. We employed paired programming practices during those "after meeting" times and it worked out very well. At times we would hit a roadblock that would get very frustrating, but the paired programming allowed us to bounce off ideas together to get to the solution. It was always interesting to see how someone's suggestions/ideas would spark a realization about the problem. Our group was also very conscious about deadlines, more often than not our work was at the very least started or finished a day or 2 in advance to when the milestone was supposed to be worked on. By doing so this relieved any pressure and anxiety that would be present through procrastination.

What could have gone better

Understanding how routing works took a big portion of our time on this project. This was mainly due to the fact that we kept assuming that routing worked similar to path building through hard coding. Once we asked our mentor for a better example to understand routing we were able to see how flask dynamically creates these paths to the pages (routes) and were finally able to move on to the rest of the project. As far as styling went, we were able to have one of our teammates learn a good amount of syntaxing and logic behind some of the CSS and got the desired result, but we all did wish that we could have had a bit more time to make it more interactive to the user with animations and such. The only way to counteract this portion for us now would be to simply continue expanding our knowledge of HTML and CSS components so that in the future we can implement something more user friendly.

Lessons learned

Students should not be discouraged by what seems to be a mountain of work, it is actually quite amusing seeing all the components of the wiki come together and form the website. One thing we would suggest is to first build the site with a general concept of what it should be and not come into the project not knowing what the main idea of the wiki is because this will lead to formatting changes based on the content which will in turn be more frustrating as some formats may take longer to code and put styling onto. If we were to build a similar project in the future, we believe that with the knowledge about this project and a bit more understanding of how to make HTML and CSS

more interactive for our users would greatly make for a better experience which is what we were aiming for since the start. Overall the project was satisfactory to our vision and it taught us so much about the tools out there that are readily available to us. More than anything it helped us better understand each other and how each one of us became the key to different problems that arose.