Saturday, May 4, 2018

I met with one of my mentors, Akshay, which did wonders to ease my trepidation concerning my data model. My biggest blocker before our meeting was choosing a starting point.

In my earlier approach, I attempted to come up with names for tables in my database before determining the data that each table will hold. Without knowing the information each table will eventually hold, I aimlessly fashioned tables and was at a loss when it came to thinking through how they relate to each other.

During our get together (at a cool new spot called Karma Café with 90 mbps internet!), Akshay encouraged me to use my application to drive my data model. We walked through the features of my minimal viable product, and the information that I need to collect and store were naturally flushed out. From there, building my model became a matter of sorting data into tables rather than creating empty tables and filling in data.

I completed the first draft of my data model, and my project advisor from Hackbright, Henry, will go over and approve it on Monday. My next step is the create my server and routes.

Monday, May 7, 2018

I experienced my first scrum standup this morning, and 7-minute-meeting felt both casual and official. I reported that I completed my data model over the weekend, that I will work on my server today, and that I would like to incorporate more test-driven development. Henry approved my data model in the morning, and I jumped into creating my server.

Around 20 minutes into drafting my server, I took a step back from writing code to create a game plan for the day. All of the server routes depend on receiving information from the client, and I could not add users to my database without the routes and html templates. I needed a master blueprint on the order of operations.

Step one, follow the steps a new user will take on my app, and write code each step in order. The very first page the user will encounter is the phone number verification page. The user, let’s call her Wanda (also what I decided to name my app today), enters her phone number, receives a verification code, enters the code, then is redirected to a signup page.

I spent most of today familiarizing myself with the Twilio API. It’s a pleasant one to work with, and I was able to create a few routes and templates after setting up my Twilio phone number with my app. The next step is setting up the client side phone number verification process and creating the rest of the signup form.

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

I spent a fruitless morning trying to figure out the two-factor authentication process through Twilio and Authy. The documentation is fine, but it’s a pretty involved process that requires quite a bit of time at my development level. Henry came over to help, and we ended up categorizing authentication as a nice-to-have that I should tackle after I establish my project’s basic functionality. This was a nice wake up call, reminding me that we are only in the functionality stage. Time to work on non-essential features will come soon enough. I also stashed a user’s time zone in this category.

The afternoon was much more productive. I created functional register, login, and home pages. I am now able to add users into the database and query for information to use in other view functions in the server. I will get a sanity check and code review early tomorrow morning from an advisor to make sure that I am headed in the right direction.