**Week 15: Assignment – Reflection**

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For the last 15 weeks, I was tasked to complete a website build from start to finish, including meeting with a client, writing a proposal and contract, wireframing and prototyping a site, and building it out entirely. This was a very daunting task as a student – however, leaving this class and finishing my degree, I can say I feel confident in what I have learned and can move forward armed with the knowledge that will drive me to success.

I was pleasantly surprised to see how much client interaction and admin work was included in the practicum (such as writing out pricing, a proposal, a contract, etc.). It was nice to feel like I was working with a real-world client instead of just given a prompt and running with it. It added a sense of urgency and realism to the entire project. It was also great to learn about these practices in a controlled environment where I was allowed to make mistakes – now I feel more confident in approaching clients with pricing that I deserve and boundaries I set.

Struggles I faced included scheduling out enough time for myself to get the site done during certain deadlines. Week 8 and 9 in particular I panicked, since I was not aware that I should have been working on the site on top of finishing the weekly assignments (though of course in hindsight that makes sense). Luckily, I was able to turn in the first draft and get a good score, but I would have liked to have set aside more time, so I didn’t feel rushed. I feel I would have produced a better product overall.

Another struggle came with the coding, particularly coding responsive design and the validation. Back-end is my weaker skillset of the two main stacks, so implementing validation for all the forms I created was a formidable task. I think the next time I have a project similar to this, I will code myself a form and validation template ahead of time that I can stick into any project and tweak from there, rather than having to re-code everything from scratch. I will probably end up doing the same for my responsive design as well; I would like websites in my portfolio to have the same styling, so I think having a responsive design base to refer back to will really help my workflow.

My favorite part of the project was definitely seeing the site come together page-by-page. I honestly find coding to be very therapeutic, and I find myself to be very productive when I’m left alone to just endlessly code. Two hours can pass without me realizing. I look forward to being able to get into more of these types of work grooves in the future!

Overall, while I struggled with scheduling adequate time for myself and aspects of the validation and design, being able to deeply code a site from start to finish was incredibly satisfying and rewarding. It has made me realize I have picked the right career path for myself. I look forward to what the future will bring now that I have finished this class and, in turn, my degree. Thank you for all of your help!