ISAT 252

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To start I will have to say that my expectations coming into this class at the beginning of the semester, compared to it now with all of the Covid-19 craziness that has taken place are completely different. Beginning of this semester I knew virtually nothing about coding and computer science as a whole, so I knew I was in for a rough start. Being home I found that practically had to teach the material to myself, for all of my classes, started to lower my expectations. At the beginning of the semester coming into this class one of the learning goals that I set was wanting to obtain at least, a basic understanding/knowledge for coding. Another thing I told myself that I’d like to do was to have 5 new techniques/abilities to perform on a computer that I had no idea existed before this class. Although I didn’t pass through my goals with flying colors, I will say that I did succeed some bit in gaining some knowledge of computer science/coding. For the actual work that I had done for this class I didn’t do much, I did the first couple badges back when we were all in Harrisonburg but once we got home, after break and got the update about the course saying that the point system was no longer being used for grading y slacked on keeping up with the work. For the amount of time spent I think it was at school around 4-5 hours a week pretty much up until break, then from that point on, I think that I maybe got a total of 4-5 hours in since then total. As the course of this semester evolved, we had to deal with some different situations and with that being said I found myself with very little time to attempting to learn all the material from all of my classes remotely from my home. I found it very difficult when trying to teach myself with computer work, not just for this class but for 215 as well, and that is definitely where I struggled the most. I felt that I was indeed very successful in learning some basic knowledge about computing, because like I stated before I practically knew nothing like barely could use excel/word and just used the internet remotely. As far as evidence that I have of the work is from whatever badges I completed and some repos I made from back during an in-person class tutorial, and a couple of weeks ago I was working home on GitHub making some new repos trying to start a project using python. I think I failed in how much further I could’ve gone, I think my goals were basic looking back on it and that I sort of seemed to achieve them before spring break, and with quarantine and being home I think I lost all motivation and never attempting at proceeding my original goals. I would think I have at least 5 different techniques to perform nut they aren’t what I was originally out seeking for more or less of what I just stumbled across along this weird occurrence of a semester. I think I’ve learned that If I only kept up my interest levels and work ethic to stay on course and to focus on attempting to learn something even with the bad situation at hand, I think I could’ve done better for myself. Concerning JMU’s mission statement, I would say I do not feel less enlightened/educated in any way if anything I have taken away something things from this class that I never knew before. As for my activities for this semester, I have been finding myself working a lot more than before because my for health reasons my father cannot be working right now so I am trying to help out by picking up shifts where ever I can see useful and that has hindered my learning experience this semester, in all classes. And if I’m being totally honest, I never really had any interest in computer science before this semester between taking 215 and this course and I was a bit terrified because I knew how much there was to them and how little I knew. But with that being said I never ruled out a career path that can lead to that branch of science, but I think after I semester of getting an introduction between these two courses it says to say it’s not for me. With that being said I don’t think this semester has hindered my ability in knowing/finding what I want to do in the future, but it helps me narrowed the options down in a way and that is always helpful. I think this semester of classes and this situation that was forced upon us has helped me narrow what it is I want to concentrate on and focus on as a career for the rest of my life. For the grading portion, I’m not sure what grade I should receive, being that I didn’t really do a whole lot to get a decent grade but considering the adversity that we had to react to has been crazy, at least for me and my family up here at my house. I guess though if I was asking for a grade, I obviously would like to pass so I wouldn’t have to repeat this whole semester like I might have to for some other classes, so I really wouldn’t ask for any specific grade just a passing one.