Week 2 Reflection

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ICT-4305

Reflection

This week we were tasked with starting a use case study for a parking system at a university. The part I found most difficult this week was working with the use case diagram and UML. I tend to struggle with creating visuals. I generally have a hard time focusing and creating infographics, flow charts, and other visuals. However, while researching, I got some further insight on tools that help with UML and use cases. Doing this in a markup/code language really helped as it allowed me to set aside my massive lack of artistic vision and basically just engineer a diagram. I then found an in-browser code editor that allowed me to run and render my code into an image.

What I found ease was detailing use case elements. I am more interested in the back end and how things work. Knowing the function of elements and the part they play is a big part in the design and development of complex systems. Given the outline of the system, it was pretty easy to detail the elements and define what they do to ensure the parking system operates as intended.

I would say outside research and finding PlantUML really helped with this week. As mentioned, I get stuck on visuals and lose focus really quick. Being able to code my diagram and then have it generated was really the game changer for me. I do wish I knew about this tool a bit sooner as I could have looked into it a bit more and not so much learning it on the fly.

As far as implementation, I chose to focus on the process of scanning the permit into the system as the car drives toward an access point. I really feel this is the core functionality of the system.

Biggest take away this week is that these projects are not just code. Careful planning leads to better execution.