

Reflection For Final Project - Ashvin Maheshwar

In this project, the hardest features to implement were the “Contact Us” and “Loyal Users” forms. These were the hardest because they involved so many different components: the form HTML itself, the styling of the form in CSS, the processing of the form using fetch in the client-side JavaScript as well as the POST request to the web service, and finally the dumping of the information in a file in Node.js. In particular, I had a hard time coding the POST requests because I had never used them in CP4, so making sure that two of them worked was quite difficult. Furthermore, writing to a file was difficult because there were so many factors I had to consider, such as whether the file even existed, and if it did, how to get the contents of the file and then add more to it. This involved a very complex try catch sequence that ended up working but was quite tedious to figure out. However, I think that while I had a difficult time with this, I would say that the lecture slides really helped me figure out all my issues. In fact, it seemed to be that every issue I had was specifically accounted for by a lecture slide. For example, the globby module was explained really well, and the Cafe API example really helped me understand how I could use globby, which allowed me to easily use the module in my own code without getting stuck. Furthermore, I had certain POST request issues where my Node.js file wasn’t able to send a response back to the client indicating a successful storage of form data, but I found fixes for this in lecture slides that explained how we needed to access our files strictly through localhost once we had put all our files in the public folder. Apart from these takeaways, I would like to mention that I did work with a partner, and I think that our partnership actually could have been really effective, but we both didn’t really understand what was supposed to be shared work and what was supposed to be individual work. Furthermore, our schedules were very different, and so we couldn’t hop on calls together much to discuss things, so what ended up happening was that

we came up with a basic API, but the API has two distinct sections that correspond to each of our e-commerce stores. Thus, it felt more like we did two individual projects with a little bit of shared ideas (we both came up with the baseline idea of e-commerce stores revolving around food products offered by Pasadena/Glendale food establishments), so I would say that in the future, doing this project with a partner could be great as long as that partner has a similar schedule to you. For future students, I would definitely say that you should start early and focus on building your API successfully first because the project went relatively smoothly after I got my section of our API to work correctly!