

Bart's Biggest Failure:

A few years ago, I made what I now consider one of my biggest professional mistakes: I chose Angular to build a large-scale Learning Management System (LMS) — without first taking the time to experiment with it on a smaller scale.

At the time, Angular seemed like the right choice. It was popular, well-documented, and backed by Google. I dove headfirst into building a full-featured LMS with user dashboards, course management, and analytics. But as the project grew, so did my frustration. I kept running into architectural challenges, performance issues, and a steep learning curve that made even simple features take longer than expected.

In hindsight, I realize I skipped a crucial step — validation. I should have started with a small “proof-of-concept” project to understand Angular’s strengths and limitations. If I had done that, I would’ve quickly recognized that React would have been a better fit for the team’s skill set and the application’s requirements.

That experience taught me an enduring lesson: before committing to a new technology for a major build, always test it on a smaller project first. A few days or weeks of exploration can save months of pain down the line.