Today I’m addressing a big issue that’s been slowing down the application an awful lot. I’ve been saving the blob data that’s generated from each invoice upload in the state tree in order to display images. This is because I’m saving the images directly into the mongoDB as a blob. This is obviously really inefficient and in order to try and improve the speed of the application as its noticeable even after a few images uploaded that it affects the performance of the application.

In order to combat this, instead of saving the blob, I’m going to save the image by generating a unique hash for the image and use that as a filename to point to the file system to store the image. Then this URI will be sent to the state instead of the image. A new route ‘/image/:id’ will be included which will get the returned image, providing its actually part of the user’s business. This is a fairly critical change in order to meet the non-functional requirements of performance.

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Today I met with Alex for a quick demo of the project and to get him to speed of where things were. I demonstrated the functionality of the project such as the ability to upload invoices and the suggestions system. I got some really good suggestions from him which I’ll try to incorporate time permitting – that I can juggle the finishing of the project along with studying for exams.

From him he suggested:

1. The ability to see the suggested cropbox as said by the system for an existing invoice template. Should use the average, so that user only has to drag it for new invoices.
2. Whilst dragging, this should update the offset of everyone, as it would make sense that all areas are going to be offset and then make suggestions based on this.

We discussed the software development process and I came to the conclusion of how I felt more comfortable documenting my work process with physical to-do lists over tools like Trello. I don’t think is a great idea long term and I should definitely try to up-take Trello for agile projects such as this in order to be able to use it more in industry.

Gave him the details that I started the technical specification, brainstorming the structure of the document and what should be included in it. We talked about the testing to include such as unit tests, user acceptance tests, error checks etc.