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CS 499

Milestone Two Narrative

The artifact being enhanced in this milestone is the Travlr Getaways travel agency website from CS 465 Full Stack Development. This was created in January and February 2025 and uses a MEAN stack to pull content from a database and render it using Handlebars templates. This artifact is being included in my portfolio because it is the largest and most comprehensive project I have completed in the computer science program and it showcases skills that I believe are sought-after in the software development field. The artifact showcases the ability to develop both front and back ends of a web application as well as integrating database connectivity. The CRUD functionality of the app and the accompanying UI cover a wide base of skills which makes this artifact worth including. The enhancement to this artifact was refactoring some of the pages to use React components instead of Handlebars templates and then justify that decision-making with documentation in the form of headers in the code files. One of the React components created for this enhancement is an interactive Contact form which has state attributes and handlers for clicking the submit button. These enhancements modernize the app and leave room for further UI improvements when needed while also allowing the appearance to remain unchanged, if desired.

The course outcomes I planned to meet with this enhancement were the first, second, and third. The first outcome, which covers collaborative efforts and organizational decision-making, is met through the documentation in the code files which explains the decision to refactor three of the web pages to React and the implications of this change for future updates. This code documentation also covers the second course outcome, regarding professional communication that is technically sound and tailored to the appropriate audience. The third course outcome, which relates to the design and evaluation of computing solutions, is met through the code enhancements which modernize and improve interactivity in the web app. The process of enhancing this artifact was not as simple as I had anticipated and required learning how to implement React as part of a pre-existing project rather than an entire React app. This involves using scripts and Babel to import/export components and translate JSX to correctly display the content. Apart from this challenge, I enjoyed this enhancement and managed to debug some earlier issues with the webapp along the way such as broken links. Below are screenshots of the enhanced pages, and the full project code can be found at [github.com/brennonfultz/CS-465](https://github.com/brennonfultz/CS-465).





