Nico Aleman

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CS5001

Individual Capstone Assessment

For our group’s senior design project, we aim to build a platform for continually updated and confirmed medical information. This would offer an open outlet for patients and doctors alike to discuss matters with each other in a manner that encourages factual information that is properly contextualized on a situational basis. Similarly, this manner of discussion also opens up the realm of connecting patients to doctors in their area who are able to treat them most effectively in their specific situation. While I don’t personally have a background in medical sciences, I look forward to delving into this field and using my own unique perspective to bring new design ideas to the table. I anticipate being a key role in the social media aspect of this project and forging the experience of interacting with peers, both patients and doctors alike. Additionally, my background lends well to having input on other elements of the user experience as well, such as the user interface and its functionality.

Different aspects of my collective college experience will certainly guide my personal involvement in the development of this project. For my curriculum, the class Database Design immediately comes to mind. Our project will require a heavy reliance on secure and well-designed databases just due to the nature of any forum-based application. For similar reasons, Info Security will also come into play, notably in the account / login processes, as well as our verification process for validating professional doctors. As for general knowledge on development and workflow, Software Engineering has certainly set me up with a strong foundation for this kind of project.

My work experience thus far will also aid in my work on this project. While only one specific position, I have spent three co-op terms at Emerson as a mobile app developer and continue to work with them part-time. Much of this position covers the same kinds of tasks I will be responsible for in this project. For example, developing and implementing front-end systems such as the user interface, as well as implementing and working with user accounts, managing them securely, and working with the databases that are required for such tasks.

My primary motivation for working on this project is simply my excitement to step outside of my app development “comfort zone.” Outside of class, the vast majority of my software engineering experience has only been through my co-op, in which I have a very specific and defined workflow. Finally being able to step away from that and work on something new is something that excited me, and I hope it opens the door to developing many new skills along the way that I wouldn’t have learned otherwise.

When developing, my focus often shifts to not only the implementation of things like a user interface, but developing it in such a way as to cultivate a pleasing user experience. I don’t believe I will be responsible for the initial designs of the interface, so my focus will instead be on bringing these to life in a way that is functional, efficient, and satisfying to navigate. I believe a large part of what will help me determine what works and what doesn’t is through simple trial tests conducted by actual people and gathering their feedback on the platform thus far.