Chelsea James

DIGM540

Final Project Reflection

During this term I have experimented in the world of Xcode and Swift. My original idea was to create a watch app linked to an iPhone app that will record a user’s physical health data. Since I have an Apple watch and an iPhone I thought it would be beneficial for me to take a look at how everything is developed and tracked.

Since this was my first time learning the Swift language, I was very confused. I generally am not the best at coding, but I am also not terrible. I know a few other languages but Swift is quite different in my opinion. I spent many weeks just trying to understand the syntax of Swift and how to navigate and set up projects in Xcode. I referred to many tutorials online and followed them in order to understand Xcode as a whole. These tutorials definitely helped me understand because they walked me through an entire project, but when I had to create something on my own, I was completely lost.

This process was very difficult and I think my project was a bit too ambitious for a 10-week course. Since I was teaching myself everything, it was very overwhelming and confusing because there is just so much to learn. The amount of detail that is needed to build an Xcode project was unexpected as well as the thorough setup. Also, accessing health data is another layer on top of just building a quick Swift project. If I had more time and someone who had Swift experience, I think I would have been able to create a more in-depth app that actually works correctly. Although I had many issues, I did appreciate the extensive documentation that is available on Apple’s website. If I had more experience with the language, I could’ve easily solved my issues with the documentation. I also enjoyed that I could simulate the app on my personal device. I was able to upload my own personal data to the app and see how it ran on the screens.

My current project is very minimal and I am honestly not very proud of it. I made many mistakes during this process that caused errors and frustration which made me start over many times. I think my project could be much better, but in the future I plan on continuing to learn more of the Swift language. I’m not exactly sure what I want to create for my thesis, but after this class I think I will pursue Swift. With a little more time and help, I believe I could do a better job of creating an iPhone app or even an Apple watch app.