# Showcasing Your Process and Skills

By: Cilvin Steward

Overview

In this project I built the complete server-side for a web application called MovieReel. I developed the REST API that will allow users of my MovieReel application to make requests to my MongoDB database and receive responses from the server-side. I used React to build the client-side of the MovieReel app, bringing everything together and giving it a face to show the world!

Link to Movie Reel App:
https://cilvin.github.io/Movie-App-React
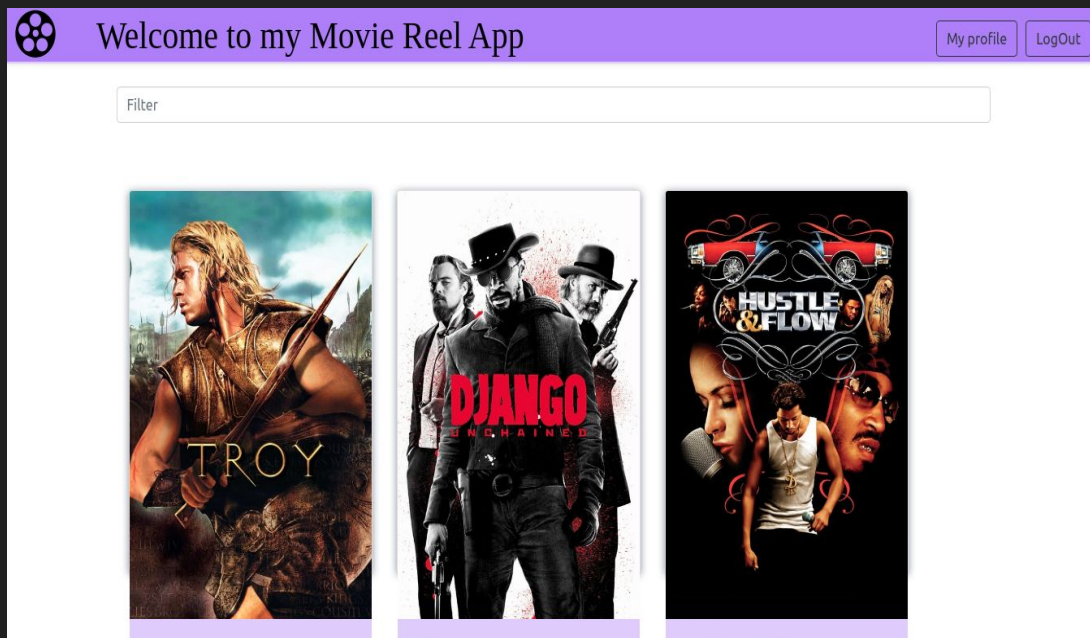
Challenge: What Didn't Go Well?

- Skills
  - Adobe Illustrator
  - Frontend React
  - Database Architecture
- Skills Gaps
  - Redux
  - Debugging
- Processes
  - Cross browser compatibility
  - User Testing
- Solution
  - Redux tutorials
  - Reached out to online community

My biggest challenge during this project was converting the react code into redux code. Converting React code into Redux code was a challenge because I had become accustomed to the architecture of React code and Redux has a completely different way of handling props and state.

I faced this challenge by taking a deep dive into Redux logic and studying how it actually worked. I had to step outside of the Career Foundry course and seek out resources that used a different way to explain Redux logic that made sense to me.

The Good: What Went Well?

I approached this project by taking into consideration how the user would move through the app and using design to enhance the users experience. First I created a rough prototype of the app with all functionality in place. Then I went on to went on to design the app in a way that was user friendly, putting the buttons in the right places, making sure that the buttons from the home page didn't show up on the login page, etc.

- Skills
  - UX and Ui design using CSS and basic Javascript, the color schema was coherent, the layout was well organized and followed basic UI principles.
  - Using MongoDB to construct the database for the Movie App to pull from. MongoDB is a great way to construct a database because it allows you to use a GUI to easily manipulate the data when needed.
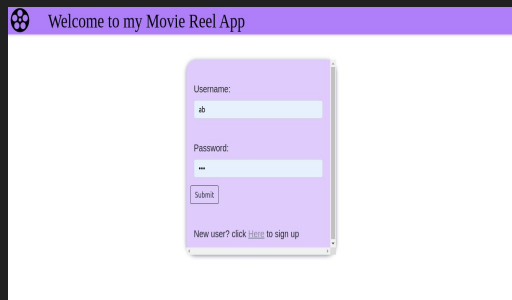
- Processes
  - Iteration and accepting constructive criticism
  - Using an industry standard technology to create the model for my app

Final Showcase

   After the first design iteration was done I tested it out on different browsers to make sure it was compatible with a variety of different users. Once the app was compatible across all browsers, I had friends and family try out the app and give me any feedback as to what was lacking in the design. The final version of the app took this feedback into consideration to create a more user friendly web app.
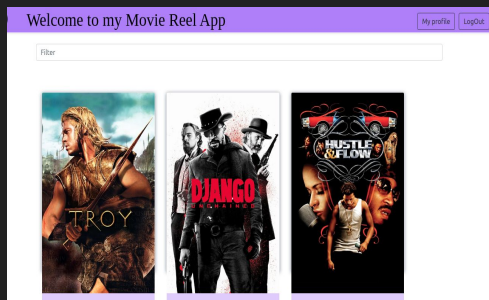
Login

Main Page

Movie Information
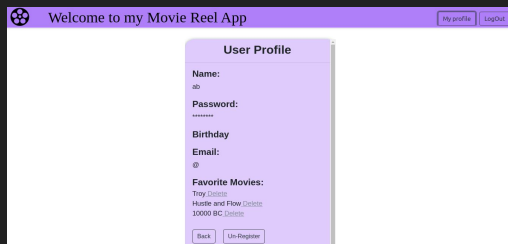
User Profile

Next Steps: What Can Be Imporved?

- Skills
  - Writing cohesive react code
- Skills Gaps
  - Understanding life cycle of react components
  - Little to no experience with heroku
- Processes
  - Using react Model View Control architecture
- Solution
  - Practice creating more react applications

The next big step for the Movie Reel app would be to create a broader selection of movies to choose from and categorize movies into different genres. The main page would need to have a drop down menu with the different genres that are available and selecting a genre would leave you with only the movies from that genre on the main page. In order to broaden the selection of movies in the app I need to change the API that the app is gathering movies from.

Career Change Strategies

- Watch tutorials on building react applications

- Watch tutorials on how to convert react code to redux

- Reach out to friends and family so they can test my new applications and give me feedback