Cooper Jones
ATLS 4630: Front End Web Development
Project 01: Milestone 04 - Reflection
Fall 2025

This project really taught me a lot about React and the mistakes I made in the past. I finally really feel like I truly understand the concepts of Hooks, Inverse Data Flow, and Component Hierarchy. While I have had some basic understanding of these concepts for several years, working through this project and taking the time to plan things out properly left me with a stronger skillset that I can take into my capstone project this spring and to jobs after graduation.

In terms of working with my team, I really felt like we all put in a fair amount of contributions and effort. I decided to tackle possibly the hardest part of the project, connecting to the API, handling the incoming data, and transforming it into a usable format. One thing I really enjoyed about working with this team was being able to work together and figure out how to solve the challenges ahead of us.

The project definitely wasn't perfect and did not quite live up to my expectations. While I'm proud of what I learned over the course of this project, I think spending more time on a few key aspects would have taken the project to the next level. I think the Favorites list could have functioned better, I didn't quite take the time to think through the best solution to that feature and could have ended up with a richer and more usable feature had I taken that time. The main issue that I have with the project was the color palette and the design language. We never really changed from our greyscale color scheme that we were using while testing and implementation. We ended up running out of time towards the end of the project, and the color scheme was deemed to be less important than feature functionality. I stand by the decision made in the moment, but better planning and time management across the project would have allowed us to solve this issue earlier and not run into last minute crunch.

We did manage to implement a lot of the features pitched during our proposal. We had our main feature of searching for drinks by name and by single ingredient. We also managed to add in our stretch goals of combining the drinks into a grocery list, and a favorites list. Some goals that we ran into issues implementing were all based around multi-ingredient searching, which was simply a limitation of the free version of the API.

Overall, the experience on this project was really positive while illuminating some potential issues in our workflow and project planning. The things I am taking away from this project are truly all positive and will help me in future projects. I learned a lot about how React actually works and how to successfully plan a project (from both our successes and failures). I look forward to taking this experience and using it to inform my decision making in both my capstone project and my career.