**Project Engineering – Journal**

**Week 1 (7th Oct – 11th Oct)**

**Overall Task**

Using Docker, set up local instance of Apache Cassandra database with basic command line access.

* Learn about Docker, Cassandra set-up and basic DB interaction through command line
* Complete installation of Cassandra instance
* Capable of executing basic DB commands

**Work Done**

* Installed Docker on local machine
* Installed Kitematic (graphical user interface to run and manage containers in Docker) on local machine
* Used Kitematic to install container using image from Docker image library
* Used Homebrew on the Command Line Interface (CLI) to install Python (brew install python)
* Used Homebrew to install Apache Cassandra (and CQLSH, Cassandra Query Language Shell)
* On DB, set up Keyspace and first table
* Executed commands to insert and delete data from table

**Issues & Solutions**

Connection error when trying to access local Cassandra instance from CLI. This was because the Docker container ports were not exposed to an external connection.

*Solution:* The exposing or publishing of ports for a Docker container cannot be done on a running container. It must be done at container creation. Running the following command created a new container running Cassandra and having the port 9042 open for connection:

* docker run -p 9042:9042 --name cassandra -d project-local-cassandra



**Week 2 (14th Oct – 18th Oct)**

**Overall Task**

* Use IntelliJ to execute DB commands
* Design and setup initial tables for project data storage
* Display data from successful DB read command

**Work Done**

* Configured IntelliJ project to include local Cassandra data store
* Imported DataStax driver jar file into IntelliJ project
* Made multiple attempts to correctly configure DB to allow connection from a Java application to execute queries/statements

**Issues & Solutions**

* Multiple compile-time errors when trying to establish Cluster connection with Cassandra instance. Errors are primarily to do with logging configuration and missing JAR files.

*Solution*

At present issue remains unsolved after downloading and adding multiple JAR files to project structure in IntelliJ.

**Week 3 (21th Oct – 25th Oct)**

**Overall Task**

Resolve previous Cassandra DB configuration issue in order to:

* Use IntelliJ to execute DB commands
* Design and setup initial tables for project data storage
* Display data from successful DB read command

**Work Done**

* Continued attempt to configure DB by manually adding JAR files, libraries and dependencies to IntelliJ Java Project. **I was unable to accomplish successful setup by this method.**
* Created a new Maven Java project in IntelliJ.
* Added needed Cassandra dependencies (DataStax) to project pom.xml file.
* Imported extra maven libraries to successfully configure project to connect to DB instance.
* Ran basic DB class to create a test keyspace in DB. This was successful.

**Issues & Solutions**

1. The project-to-DB connection config issue of last week continued into this week. The primary exceptions and errors were around logging and missing class definitions. After researching many hours online, the problem and solution seemed to be outside the scope of the project.

*Solution*

Once the complexity of the problem was understood I decided that I may change to MySQL rather than use Apache Cassandra as my project database. Cassandra is an enterprise-level application and as such, configuration was proving time-consuming.

My final attempt to solve the issue before the I made the switch yielded the result I wanted. I created a Maven Project in IntelliJ and within the dependencies of the pom.xml file I added the needed DataStax driver libraries and logging libraries. Once these imports to the project were made I was able to connect to my local Cassandra instance and execute DB queries/statements.