1. When I first started the course I was expecting a course that explained in depth how we are all connected through the internet and things like the internet. I didn't realize it would teach me how to make the means of getting info through the internet like making web pages and front end and back end for a page. It was a surprise that there was so much coding, but it was a welcome surprise since I found the method of instructing to be very effective. It made sense to know how networks worked and then use one effectively.
2. One of the biggest problems I faced in this class was actually when working on the final project. Me and my group wanted to undertake something new and practical. We are making a webpage that can scrape data pertaining to the stock market as well as some other securities. I thought web scraping would be simple and the code to do so isn't unbelievably complex, but finding the method to scrape certain types of data in a certain way and then manipulating that data for the front end took hours and hours of trial and error. With the help of my partners we found an api that worked with yahoo finance, but it didn't give us data in an easily parsable way, so we found an api that utilizes the api we originally planned on using. Now we have our home page up with web scraped data, but the scraping method took hours of research and trial and error in mimir ide.
3. I had an interaction with one of my friends back home because of the final project. He helped one of my other friends build an algorithm that algorithmically trades stocks, so I thought he would know how I would approach the project, and he gave me some objectives to reach to get to the final product. Without this class I would have never communicated to my friend about our majors, and I thought that was really cool. The other day I had a conversation with my roommate about botnets. We were talking about how bots based on other people’s IP are done. Without this class I would have never had a cool conversation about botnets with my roommate.
4. I have learned how to work better with other people in this class. Before this class, most of my classes (while they encouraged it) didn’t need to be worked on in groups since the workload was viable on your own. This class not only encouraged group work, but group work seemed the most effective since it was about quantity as well as knowledge sometimes . These group oriented skills I have garnered will be very applicable to any computer science job may get since many jobs use SCRUM or another type of group oriented work methodology. Now I feel more comfortable about these scenarios because of this class.
5. Honestly working through the pandemic has been hard because it is hard to keep a good head on you when you have very little interaction with other people due to COVID. Luckily I have stayed focused, but it was tough at times. I found relationships with my classmates as well as my teachers increasingly difficult to create during these times because of the stigma of face to face interaction. For the most part when we went to class we just listened, and wrote notes and then left . There was very little deviation from that due to the limitations of the pandemic. Since I had more time to myself because of less of a social life, I had more time to work on my homework which has helped with not getting overwhelmed, but that only rang true when I wasn’t mentally burdened with the reality of life during the pandemic. So basically, the pandemic was both helpful as well as detrimental to my studies. My enjoyment of my studies was definitely smaller than normal though, so learning during a pandemic was more of a negative learning experience than a positive one.
6. Online education is obviously more convenient than in person, but the quality of education is definitely better in person. Its very easy to be distracted by your environment since you are in your own quarters. Part of quality learning is the learning environment, and I have gotten good education while online in some classes, but the learning environment as a whole is much more conducive to learning in in-person classes. I wanted to learn whether I was in-person or online, but it was easier to pay attention in person due to less distractions making learning in that environment much more preferable to me . I like taking tests and quizzes online since it is more convenient to take exams at any point on a test/quiz day, and the home environment is less stressful.
7. I learned that I learn information best if I take time to digest the information periodically rather than just going through all the information at once. I noticed by doing the readings for each unit that this was more effective after I tweaked the way I went about it throughout the semester. Since there was less emphasis on perfection with this new grading style that was employed in this class, I tasked myself to more sustainably learn information as compared to cramming and dumping, and I found out how I worked best because I had to think about how I most sustainably learned information. That is how I came to the conclusions that I need to give myself time to digest information throughout a long study session.