

After seven weeks of work for SafeChatSV, I can say that it was a rather pointless endeavor. While the class did help satisfy two of my course requirements (one for ENGR 1 and one for Civil Engagement), I did not really learn anything new or anything helpful through the class or the project. Part of the reason was because I was already taking the engineering school's junior design class, which went over the materials of the first few weeks at a much faster pace. And on top of that, SafeChatSV was rather absent during the process meaning not a lot of work could get done.

On the topic of working with SafeChatSV, it could not really be said that they were like a customer. Normally, a customer comes with expectations of some sort of the end product. This was not the case with SafeChatSV. While they seemed enthusiastic during the initial interview, they didn't seem to care much about our progress or expect anything usable. This runs contrary to an actual customer as they actually invest time and/or money and so have higher expectations as a result. The overall lack of pressure and urgency from SafeChatSV made the whole experience pretty unfulfilling.

In addition to frustrations with our partner, there were also frustrations with the class assignments as well. The amount of paperwork for a seven week project should not be that much. It could be said that more work was done for the paperwork than the project. Having reflections is too much, especially considering that the first reflection comes after only one week of work. The portfolio site is also a waste of time considering that only one project will ever live on it and such a site would be unimpressive to employers.

Ironically, the greatest benefit I got from the project was deciding to make more work for myself by coding my website from scratch instead of using a service like Wix or WordPress. Having not used my HTML, CSS, and JavaScript skills for about a year, I had gotten rusty, and the portfolio site was a good review for me so I can build my actual portfolio site this summer.