**5-2 Milestone: Databases**

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A. Briefly describe the artifact. What is it? When was it created?   
The artifact I decided to highlight is a brand new, full-stack application that uses React.js for the frontend and a combination of python, flask, and MongoDB for the backend. It currently functions as a simple user management system that could easily hook into broader applications and is completely hooked into a fully functioning cloud database. As I mentioned this application was created specifically for this portfolio.

B. Justify the inclusion of the artifact in your ePortfolio. Why did you select this item? What specific components of the artifact showcase your skills and abilities in software development? How was the artifact improved?

This artifact was specifically created to showcase my ability to learn and integrate new technology (this is my first experience with react.js) as well as being able to fully integrate a cloud database. The backend is run by a python module which contains much of the functional implementation of CRUD operations for our database, as well as handling the connection. Many of my previous work with MongoDB was working with local databases, and I wanted to explore working with a cloud database this time.

C. Did you meet the course objectives you planned to meet with this enhancement in Module One? Do you have any updates to your outcome-coverage plans?

This milestone was another I had to reconsider my approach and enhancement goals that I had originally laid in Module One. In some cases, we may be required to reconsider our approach, and this is exactly what I chose to do. The artifact was originally going to be a restored version of the animal shelter dashboard developed for CS340. Unfortunately, it was impossible to restore the AAC database for the Grazioso Salvare dashboard and the scope of that project was limited. It is for those reasons that I decided to build an entirely new full-stack application for this portfolio.

D. Reflect on the process of enhancing and/or modifying the artifact. What did you learn as you were creating it and improving it? What challenges did you face?

Overall, I found this artifact to be somewhat challenging. Python and JavaScript would have to be my languages that I have experience in, although they can be forgiving and have great documentation online. The biggest difficulty was designing for and gathering all necessary components for the project. It’s my opinion that I have developed a sufficient example of not only using a database in software development, but also my flexibility in adapting and integrating unfamiliar technologies.