

Week 4

Monday 10/16/17 – Lectures 4.1-3 / Informal Team Meeting 4a

Today I watched the lectures regarding Architectures. Looking ahead at Homework 2, we will be creating paper prototypes of our application and revising our requirements specifications to more completely fit the vision of our customer. I kept this in mind as I watched this week's lectures, though I realized by the second lecture that these lectures were going to be more related to Homework 3 instead of Homework 2.

There was a good amount of information to get through in these lectures. My first naïve thought was surprise that software developers do so much more in development than I thought. It is not as simple as planning out your program and jumping into code. There are diagrams, architecture choices based on how users utilize the application and a project might have multiples of each! Architectural Decomposition is where we first begin to see flickers of how this process begins to turn into code. As a person who likes to see how things work, this is a very interesting and exciting lecture for me to see final how software development begins to turn an idea into code.

In the last lecture we learned about evaluation our architectures. I can see how this fits into the processes with returning to things we have already done and evaluating them for improvement. The waterfall method is useful for quickly getting out requirements, but with other methods like Agile, requirements can be circled back upon and improved for the best possible application. And much like the scientific method, we are not looking to fit our "evidence" to our "theory" but instead we are using what we have learned to improve upon our software and see what our "evidence" might be telling us. Then we can determine what would be a better fit for our theory and revise our experiment. Or, identify what quality attributes can be improved up, where our current architecture/design will fail, and if we can revise it to make it better.

A few of our group members met today in our group Slack channel to go over Homework 2 and agreed to split up the homework at this stage so that we could meet with our customer, Sean, on Thursday to see what he thought of our prototypes and so we could make any revisions he wanted. I agreed to make the paper prototypes for our website. Since I have a previously planned engagement on Thursday that will prevent me from meeting at our usual time I plan to get my prototypes to my group members to show to Sean at the Thursday meeting.

Thursday 10/19/17 – Team Meeting 4b

Today our group met with our customer to review what we have so far and to get his input, as well as to plan the rest of our homework for this week. I was unable to make this meeting due to a prior engagement, but they caught me up on the meeting. Sean liked mostly everything about the prototypes, but asked if we could include information on the laws in the results as well, so I will be re-doing the paper prototypes to include this tomorrow.

Saturday 10/21/17 – Project Progress

Today I went over the paper prototypes for the website and re-did the search results to include not only news articles for relevant candidate and election information, but also information on the laws that will be on the ballot. I tried to make the UI as user friendly as possible and used what I learned in the Usability class as well! Hopefully this will satisfy our customer and will work for the team members.

Sunday 10/22/17 – Team Meeting 5

Our group met briefly today to put everything together in our Google Doc and make sure it meets all of the requirements of the assignment as Sean. I am very happy that our group members work well together and are almost always available when needed. Our Slack channel allows us to speak informally throughout the day. We have a good system by now of getting our homework document put together quickly and easily and to make sure that the “voice” is uniform throughout and meets all of the requirements as well.

Week 5

Monday 10/23/17 – Expanded Vision Statement

Today I focused on revising my Vision Statement. I made my first draft very thorough so outside of revising it a bit to make it better, I did not have to add a whole lot more to the document. I did add a bit more to make it more of a “paper”, with an introduction and conclusion. I also added a new section going over a possible architecture of the vision and created a diagram to illustrate how it would be used, and included information on the time and costs of the project. This part seems to be not as much a vision statement from a user as it’s more design that would be done by the developer, but I appreciated being able to apply this information to my own vision to see how it might come about.

Thursday 10/26/17 – Team Meeting 6

For our team meeting today we went over Homework 3 and discussed what architectures we would be using and to assign parts of the project to team members. This homework is definitely related to the lectures in week 4. Most of our group has a midterm this week for another class so we agreed to parse out the assignment and meeting again on Sunday to revise and put it together. My part of the assignment is to explain the implications of the selected architecture based on the results of the validation and verification. I will need to have most of the assignment already done before I can complete this part, which is ok since I will be taking my midterm on Sunday and will be able to complete this part of the assignment afterwards.

Sunday 10/28/17 – Project Progress / Informal Team Meeting 7

As planned, our group met today informally over our Slack group channel to discuss the homework for this week and put it together. After everyone submitted their parts of the assignment I completed mine which were the implications of our selected architecture. I noticed that a third database would be useful for a number of reasons and wrote about that. Afterwards, I helped put the document together and make sure it was complete.

Week 6

Wednesday 11/1/17 – Lectures 5.1-3

Today I watched Lectures 5.1-3, which I actually found very interesting. Again, this week's lectures broke down the development process even further and you can begin to see more clearly how an idea gets from being an idea to code. I am familiar with object-oriented programming, but it is interesting to see how an OOP program is created from our diagrams of entities. It also breaks down with more terminology and examples of how OOP can be compromised in various ways through coupling. This is a trap that a lot of beginners can fall into when first learning OOP, but it's useful to see how a high-level architecture design might also fall into these types of traps, but also how they might be used if they are unavoidable.

Thursday 11/2/17 – Team Meeting 8

Our team met again today and went over Homework 4. It was a fairly short meeting and we decided to parse out the parts of the homework again and meeting on Sunday like we did last week. We also looked ahead at future assignments and agreed that in the future we will likely need to plan meetings earlier in the week because the assignments will be more time consuming as we will be coding our project (finally!). This week's homework is exciting to me because like the latest lectures it is the first glimmer of coding beginning to appear as we are designing our implementation. For my part of the assignment I will be creating a sequence diagram from one of the use cases from Homework 2 showing how that use case would play out in the system. It should differ from the sequence diagrams in previous homework assignments, in that the sequence for the current assignment should show how specific classes participate in supporting the use case.

Saturday 11/4/17 – Project Progress

Today I completed my part of Homework 4 that is due this week. My part was to do the sequence diagram for the use case. We decided on using the Location-Based Search feature for since it is the main focus of the website and has the most utility. It was interesting to see how the systems all work together more in depth to have the user actually using the website and interacting with the various databases to show them their search results, even if it is a theoretical use. Soon we will begin actual implementation which I am excited for. It is very interesting to me to see everything come together, which is great since this is what I want to do with my future career!

Sunday 11/5/17 – Team Meeting 9

For our last informal meeting we met over our Slack channel to put everything together. This went about the same as last week. We discussed a few last minute details and made sure the "voice" was the same throughout the document. Peter will be doing the final submission.