Personal Journal

Vikram: The most important thing for me coming into this course was to learn how to make applications in React framework. I did learn from mistakes made in the past where I tried to create a website in react but failed as my concepts were not clear, however, this time I've come prepped with loaded guns—My strategy was to first get a good grasp over JavaScript and then move to the React frame work which I did. While learning js the focus was mostly on classes and this was very tedious and painful learning experience however I got a good grip on it now, only to get introduced to hooks in React what a breath of fresh air –

This is week 3: This is my third attempt at the project hopefully it is the last, by this statement I don't mean I am stuck or can't do it, but I keep finding more efficient ways of doing work—During the first attempt I was confident and just went at it I knew what I want to build I had all the tools, knowledge apis etc., so I started with a vision in my head and a sketch, all my logic was together and the machine was working but when you looked at it from a distance what a hot mess, it was the ugliest website, I think I would be the only one who would know how to use it. So I was like ok its not like everything is lost, let me start again, this time scope creep was creating hell for me as I started exploring other resources and had plans of merging datasets and creatine one product, good idea but bad planning, I went through the entire process again and created a monster, I decided to get peoples feedback and showed it to a couple of close friends, they did not know how many hours of work went into it, so they were extremely honest and said it was ugly. I decided to go home and sleep.

 Trust me it's at 3am when I get this divine intervention, everything seemed so clear, the planning stage had begun, In my mind I was creating layouts and planning how data is going to be displayed, I would also have a standard layout for all products for user friendliness. This time it's looking good, I have already completed two features and have 2 more to go and may add more. One important thing I forgot to mention is that the assignments played a key part in my success, as I got to brush up on layout concepts which triggered ideas in my head.

I did not update my journal for weeks 4 to 8 as I got busy with other assignments, however I will narrate the building process during those weeks till now.
In week 4 I had a clear understanding of what the layout for the screen's world be, I create the screens first and then went into coding the logic to them. Everything worked fine, the site looked stable…... till I minimized the screen. It was not heartbreaking as I knew I just needed to write some media queries for different screen sizes, however I realized I was extremely unorganized in the naming of classes and ID for the elements and this was not working, I realized the blunder I was in, I mostly fixed the issue only to realize that the website was going to behave differently in a different browser, however I am so happy all this is happening now as I am defining procedures for myself when I code a new project:
1) Decide on UI after mockups and interviews
2) While creating layouts create layouts for all screen sizes
3) Use a naming convention for naming classes and id used in elements

4) Test with different browsers

I am very thankful for this process as I got to learn a lot through this process of documentation and it created a metrics for me to remember 6 months or 10 years from now, the things I did well, did not do so well, take a ways.

I am definitely proud of what I accomplished with this project and I know it's just going to get better from here and each project/app I create is going to be yet more robust.

Thank you,
Vikram Guhilot