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CS290
Practice: Week 8

In my pass dealings with return functions I had dealt with the javascript library Angular and struggled immensely with understanding why you would use a callback function when you could just call the function right after the other http request was made (or any function for that matter). What I learned the hard way was that in asynchronous calls coupled with browsers that look to optimize calls, the http requests to an API could be made in whatever order the browser thinks will be the fastest. This would have the effect of my page loading without the proper content. What I learned then and understand a bit more now is that http calls do not work like regular function calls and that callback functions are the only way to ensure your code runs in the way you in intend.

To relate to this week though, it was still a bit of a struggle to format the call back functions with the proper parameters for the weather call back function exercise. If you screw up with syntax or send improperly formatted body content you end up getting the dreaded/ vague CORS error. In my first dealings with Angular (and the request library) I hit the CORS wall constantly not realizing that the database my API was retrieving data from was blocking my http request due to insufficient permissions to the database. Now with a bit of experience I know to check permissions on the database and to check the body of the request. It can be difficult at first to pin point what is causing the CORS error due to how vague the error message is in the browser console (I learned to log to the console often in the build stage of a project to help identify theses errors) so callback functions with error messages are essential to debugging these issues. You really need to have an awareness of exactly what your API expects from your http requests (which can be difficult even if you build the API yourself) and also how the permissions or setup on the far back end.

After learning a new framework for managing callback methods from http requests I feel more confident in their usage and how to trouble shoot the errors I frequently get when trying to set up my own calls to an API.