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Professional Self-assessment

cs 499 - Computer Science Capstone - Final Project Submission

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Hannah Rose Morgenstein

Professor Saba Jamalian

**Professional Self-Assessment**

As a graduate of the Computer Science program at Southern New Hampshire University, I have developed a strong technical foundation and the ability to build impactful software solutions with real-world value. This capstone project and ePortfolio mark the culmination of my academic development and the start of my professional journey as a software developer focused on geospatial technologies.

Throughout the program, I gained firsthand experience in core computing principles, data structures and algorithms, systems architecture, and specialized domains like geographic information systems. The iterative development of my GIS pipeline tool brought these elements together into a scalable, open-source application that replaces proprietary geoprocessing workflows, transforming a class project from IT 338 into a modular, production-ready, tool built for real-world data engineering.

**Technical Strengths and Skills Demonstrated:**

**Collaborating in a Team Environment**

While the capstone was an individual project, my coursework involved many collaborative assignments and team coding exercises. These experiences helped me develop essential skills in version control (Git), Agile-style task planning, and collaborative problem-solving. I learned to maintain clear, respectful communication and accountability—practices I will carry forward into any professional setting. Additionally, I gained experience managing project timelines, resolving merge conflicts, and providing constructive feedback—all crucial for effective teamwork.

**Communicating with Stakeholders**

Effective communication has been fundamental to my growth as a computer scientist. I have honed my ability to convey technical information clearly to both technical and non-technical audiences through detailed documentation, configuration guides, and visual aids like flowcharts and pseudocode. The GIS tool’s CLI, logging, and usage documentation were designed with accessibility in mind, supporting diverse users and promoting transparency and collaboration with stakeholders and cross-functional teams.

**Data Structures and Algorithms**

Algorithmic optimization is a core strength. In my GIS pipeline tool, I replaced ArcPy’s procedural buffers with vectorized operations using GeoPandas and Shapely and implemented geometry simplification and optional multiprocessing to enhance scalability and performance. These improvements prove my ability in algorithm design, complexity analysis, and balancing trade-offs among accuracy, speed, and scalability in real-world geospatial data processing.

**Software Engineering & MongoDB Integration**

The tool exemplifies software engineering best practices, including modular architecture, test-driven development (TDD), structured logging, robust error handling, and clean documentation. I restructured the codebase to enhance maintainability and scalability, introduced a user-friendly CLI, and integrated MongoDB for persistent, queryable geospatial data storage. This integration highlights my ability to design scalable, secure data systems using both relational and NoSQL technologies.

**Security Mindset**

Security considerations guided every enhancement. I implemented secure database connections using environment variables, ensured consistent error handling, and planned for future features like authentication and role-based access control. These practices reflect a proactive, security-conscious approach essential for building resilient production systems. I applied secure coding techniques such as input validation and structured logging to protect against misuse and data leaks, with extensibility for advanced security features in future releases.

**Artifact Overview and Portfolio Cohesion**

The artifacts in this ePortfolio display a broad range of computer science skills, including software engineering, spatial data processing, algorithm design, and database integration. At its core is the GIS Pipeline Tool, enhanced across three key areas:

1. **Software Engineering and Design – Modular Python package featuring a user-focused CLI, error logging, and automated tests.**
2. **Algorithms and Data Structures – Vectorized geospatial computations, multiprocessing, and geometry optimization.**
3. **Databases – MongoDB-based storage for spatial metadata and report logs supporting post-processing analysis.**

These enhancements demonstrate the practical application of academic theory into efficient, maintainable software that addresses real-world challenges. Each improvement is supported by formal documentation, structured testing, and iterative development, highlighting both my technical expertise and commitment to continuous refinement. This ePortfolio emphasizes not only functional code but also critical production-ready elements such as testing, documentation, and thoughtful project planning.

**Final Thoughts**

This capstone project and ePortfolio reflect years of commitment to learning, academic growth, and professional preparation in computer science. They show my readiness to enter the workforce with a strong foundation in programming, systems design, data processing, and problem-solving, alongside the ability to think critically, work independently, and deliver high-quality results.

I look forward to applying these skills by building thoughtful, efficient, secure, and impactful software. This portfolio showcases not only my technical achievements but also the professional growth and mindset that shaped my approach to collaboration and problem-solving.

Confident in my grasp of system design, coding standards, and security-conscious development, I aim to contribute to projects that enhance accessibility, sustainability, and data-driven decision-making—especially in geospatial and environmental domains. I am ready to apply my skills in a professional setting and continue evolving as a thoughtful and capable software developer.